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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXI, Issue No. 64 | THURSDAY MARCH 17, 2011 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support the idea of hosting some of the Japan tsunami and earthquake victims here in the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Looming Disaster
Japan suspended operations to keep its stricken nuclear plant from melting down Wednesday after surging radiation made it too dangerous to stay.

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Rebels in Crosshairs
Moammar Gadhafi's forces overwhelmed rebels in the strategic eastern city of Ajdabiya.

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Train Wreck
Charlie Sheen is bringing his live show to five more venues, including New York's famed Radio City Music Hall.

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Hakubotan, once the second biggest duty free shop on Saipan, shut down its operations in early 2000. The building in Chalan Lau Lau, which was once burglarized, is now slowly deteriorating.

IN WAKE OF TOURISM DECLINE

Business closures plague Saipan

SPECIAL REPORT

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Editor's Note: This story forms part of a series that Saipan Tribune *will feature this week, examining the Commonwealth's tourism industry, focusing on the dire state of arrivals, particularly from its main market of Japan, and the steps that could be taken to reverse the trend.*

The slowdown in arrivals from the main market of Japan, global financial crisis, a weak Korean won, loss of the garment industry, pullout of Japan Airlines, and many other factors resulted in closures of many businesses, including popular ones, over the past 10 years on Saipan.

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ECONOMIC SUMMIT HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
From left, Department of Commerce's David Maratita, Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Jim Arenovski, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, and acting Commerce secretary Sixto Igisomar review documents after a news briefing on the upcoming 2011 Economic Restoration Summit on March 22 and 23 at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe. The summit, which brings industry experts, businesses, and other community members, is a follow-up to the viability of four industries identified in 2009.

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9%- 10% allotment cuts starting in April

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that government departments and agencies will get 9 percent to 10 percent cuts in their monthly allotments starting in April, as actual revenues have proven to be less than the $132

See ALLOTMENT on Page 4

» FY 2012 projected revenue falls below $120M, but not lower than $100M

New draft bill allows up to 3 casinos on Saipan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House Ways and Means Committee has drafted a new bill allowing the operation of up to three casinos on Saipan, even as a proposal to introduce a legislative initiative gains traction among lawmakers.

Committee chair Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday the committee is expected to make a final decision next week

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Local

'Feds to send radiation monitoring device if needed'

The Fitial administration said yesterday that the federal government will send radiation monitoring device to the CNMI if needed but officials said as of yesterday, Japan's nuclear crisis remains to be of no immediate threat to the commonwealth.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos also said federal agencies based in Guam stand ready to assist the CNMI if needed, in addition to the constant communication between the CNMI's task force and other federal entities out of Guam and Hawaii.

These include the National Weather Service and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Inos said the CNMI has conventional biochemical testing device but not the type that's specifically for nuclear radioactive material.

He said it has not reached that point yet wherein the CNMI needs to have devices or specialists to be on island as Japan tries to contain the explosions and associated problems resulting from the quake-damaged nuclear power plants.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said if a change of status does occur, "the proper specialists and equipment will be sent our way."

Radiation levels at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant in Japan have surged and dropped repeatedly since the 9.0-magnitude quake hit Japan on Friday. The nuclear power plants' reactors have suffered a series of setbacks that have caused widespread fears about the possibility of a major radiation contamination and bring back memories of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

In the CNMI, Inos formed a six-member task force on Sunday to monitor the nuclear crisis in Japan. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Rota lawmakers offer condolences to Japan in wake of disasters

The Rota Legislative Delegation adopted a resolution yesterday offering sincere condolences to and solidarity with the people of Japan in the wake of the devastating earthquake and tsunami that hit the nation last Friday.

Introduced by Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution No. 17-13 was adopted during the delegation's meeting yesterday.

The resolution considers the 8.9-magnitude earthquake as the most powerful in Japan's history, setting off a tsunami along the northeastern coast of Japan near the coastal city of Sendai in Miyagi Prefecture.

The disaster caused large-scale destruction, including considerable damage to public infrastructure and great human suffering for thousands of victims.

"The people of Rota expresses its deepest condolences and sympathy for the horrific loss of life and the physical and psychological damage caused by the earthquake and tsunami," the resolution stated, adding that the island's leaders will work with the executive branch and the Consular Office of Japan in the CNMI for ongoing developments and relief efforts. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Guam criminalist says lab tests show evidence for 'ice,' sugar

A Guam Police Department criminalist testified yesterday that some evidence forwarded by Saipan Department of Public Safety for laboratory analysis in the case against suspected major drug supplier Jing Xin Xiao were tested positive for methamphetamine hydrochloride or "ice" while the other set was tested to have contained sugar.

GPD Forensic Science Division Crime Lab's criminalist Analyn Gatus said her analysis on two sets of items sent by Saipan DPS that she received on Aug. 26, 2010 showed they contained methamphetamine hydrochloride.

Gatus said she completed on March 9, 2011 the analysis of an item sent by DPS that showed that it contained sugar.

Gatus said the two sets each had a net weight of less than a gram.

She said she did not examine the other set of item sent by DPS as requested by assistant attorney general Russell Lorfing who stated that there's no time to conduct testing.

Saipan Tribune learned that those tested positive as "ice" were the ones allegedly found by the detectives in the backyard of Xiao's house and purchased by a "cooperating defendant."

The item that was recovered inside Xiao's house was apparently the one tested as containing sugar.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom yesterday afternoon, Lorfing was still conducting direct examination on Gatus.

On Tuesday, a man tagged by authorities as "cooperating defendant" testified in the ongoing jury trial in Superior Court of Xiao.

The "cooperating defendant" in his testimony for the government narrated how he cooperated with local authorities by purchasing $350 worth of "ice" from Xiao, also known as Hondan, on April 7, 2010.

The government's witness said the defendant had been selling him "ice" for a year and a half.

The witness said the prosecution or the police did not promise him anything in exchange for testifying in the case against Xiao.

"It's the right thing to do!" said the "cooperating defendant" when asked by Lorfing why he's testifying for the government.

The witness said he did bad things in the past and that it is time for him to move forward.

He said he was scared and concerned for his daughter's safety when in the last three weeks Xiao once visited his house.

The witness said it was one Saturday at 7:30am when his brother told him that there's a Chinese man outside the house looking for him.

He said Xiao asked about his (Xiao) case.

The "cooperating defendant" said Xiao asked how much police's money he (witness) gave him.

"I never admitted to him that I made the buy-bust," the witness said. "I never acknowledged anything to him."

During cross-examination, chief public defender Adam Hardwicke, counsel for Xiao, asked many questions regarding the witness' criminal case and conviction.

The witness agreed with Hardwicke that the government charged him with drug trafficking, unlawful possession of a firearm, unlawful possession of ammunition, illegal possession of controlled substance, and illegal possession of government property.

At Lorfing's re-direct examination, the "cooperating defendant" said he was not charged with drug trafficking because the court dismissed that count during preliminary hearing.

The witness said there was no evidence that's why the judge dismissed it.

Lorfing then showed to the witness an amended information indicating he was not charged with drug trafficking.

Before the "cooperating defendant," the government called its first witness—Detective Sean White—who told the court about his participation in the investigation that led to the arrest of Xiao and subsequent raid at his residence in Papago.

After the arrest, police claimed they were able to seize over 230 grams of "ice" during the raid on April 7, 2010, at Xiao's house and backyard. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Castro wants to address court's staff shortage problem

Acting Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro wants to fill the two vacant positions for the Superior Court to address the court's current staff shortage.

Castro has notified the Legislature about the Judiciary's need to fill the two vacant positions—law clerk and deputy clerk III.

Castro said the law clerk and deputy clerk III positions have been vacant since September 25, 2010 and Feb. 18, 2011, respectively.

The acting chief justice urged Senate president Paul A. Manglona and House Speaker Eliceo D. Cabrera to make a joint resolution about the Judiciary's intent to hire additional staff.

He said budget is available for the full personnel costs associated with the vacancies and that filling of the positions fall within the full-time employee positions established by Public Law 17-21 for the Judiciary.

Castro

"These two positions are critical to the operations of the trial court in that each provides courtroom and docket support for criminal and civil cases," he said.

Castro said pre and post-trial processing of cases, timely disposition of matters, and protection of life, liberty, and property rely on an efficient system and the positions assist the judges in pursuing such a goal.

At the onset of this fiscal year, the Judiciary suspended hiring of a replacement law clerk due to its budget situation.

Castro said they have since determined that the law clerk position cannot remain unfilled due to the workload of the five court chambers.

"It is essential to meet the docket demands and chamber activities," he said.

With respect to the deputy clerk position which was vacated last month, Castro said it has left an immediate void in courtroom readiness since there is an existing shortage of staff in the Office of the Clerk of Court.

The filling of the deputy clerk vacancy, he said, would allow immediate attention to the processing of documents and case management issues. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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1:00 PM – 5:00 PM Industry Presentations
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9:00 AM – 9:30 AM Day 2 Opening Remarks
9:30AM – 12:00 PM Industry Break-Out Sessions
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Lunch
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Joint trial ordered for couple who allegedly defrauded PH bank

The federal court has granted the U.S. government's request to conduct a joint trial of a couple who are indicted for their role in an alleged conspiracy to defraud a Philippine bank of approximately $109,855.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood on Tuesday ordered that defendants Ana Maria V. Villegas and Haydn L. Villegas shall be tried together by jury.

Tydingco-Gatewood said she finds the U.S. government's motion well-taken.

The couple, through their respective lawyers, did not oppose the motion.

The judge ordered the consolidation of the superseding indictment and the indictment.

No trial date was indicated yet.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Beverly R. McCallum moved the court to order that the wire fraud charges against Ana Villegas in the superseding indictment, and the charge of the wire fraud conspiracy committed by the couple and others, as alleged in the indictment, be consolidated for use at that trial.

According to the indictments, the scheme to defraud began in November 2004 when the Villegas couple, then co-owners of Philippine Express Remittance, started passing checks drawn on insufficient funds at PNB Express.

PNB Express was then a subsidiary of Philippine National Bank. The then manager of PNB Express had already pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and wire fraud, and awaiting her sentencing. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

DRAFT BILL

From Page 1

whether to introduce this new bill or an initiative.

The 66-page draft bill, a copy of which was obtained yesterday, allows the issuance of up to three casino licenses on Saipan—one casino license shall be issued to a Northern Marianas Descent corporation, and two for foreign investors who are required to invest at least $100 million each.

"The draft bill is a hybrid of the vice speaker's casino bill and other bills, including Stanley's bill…We're not looking at Stanley's bill alone," he said.

Rep. Stanley Torres' (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 17-130 is under Ways and Means Committee review.

Torres said he doesn't have a problem with introducing an initiative instead of a casino, if this will move the proposal faster.

Some lawmakers are keen on letting Saipan voters to decide whether they would allow legalizing casino gambling on island. Saipan voters twice rejected a casino initiative years back.

Basa said there's also no decision yet as to whom among committee members will formally introduce the draft bill.

The draft bill calls for the establishment of a five-member Saipan Casino Commission, which shall hire an executive director.

Under the draft bill, the Saipan mayor shall appoint commissioners, who are subject to the advice and consent of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation. Each commissioner will serve a four-year term and can serve for only up to two terms.

Each commissioner will have a salary of $75,000 a year.

The Saipan delegation, however, may alter the commission's compensation three years after the latter's inception.

Under the draft bill, a Saipan Municipal Treasury will be established under the Saipan Mayor's Office.

The treasurer will be responsible for the collection of all casino fees, taxes, and all other charges.

The Saipan mayor will have to identify and certify the availability of casino revenues in his annual budget submission to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

The delegation will be the one to appropriate such casino revenues for the operation of the commission, the Saipan Municipal Treasury, and for repayment of funds that were advanced or borrowed to help start up the operation.

The rest of the casino revenues will be appropriated for local projects and programs including infrastructure and collateral equipment, recreation and sports facilities, educational facilities and equipment, public safety and law enforcement, gambling anonymous program, scholarship for those of Northern Marianas descent and U.S. local residents, youth and elderly development programs, medical referral, programs for persons with disability, and other health care needs of NMDs and U.S. local residents, among other things.

Other funds may also be set aside for government contribution to the NMI Retirement Fund.

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) introduced a controversial Saipan casino bill last year which passed the House but killed by the Senate. Two months later, Torres introduced a casino bill that the committee is now reviewing. Torres earlier said he will introduce a new one, while the committee planned to substitute his bill with that of two other previous casino bills. Later on, some members agreed on pursuing an initiative rather than a bill, only to work on a new bill.

ALLOTMENT

From Page 1

million budget for fiscal year 2011.

There are still six months to go before FY 2011 ends on Sept. 30.

"The monthly allotments will be reduced beginning April, by between 9 and 10 percent," Inos told *Saipan Tribune*.

Even before a 9.0-magnitude quake and tsunami hit Japan on Friday, the CNMI government was already behind by $7 million to $8 million in projected revenue for the October 2010 to February 2011 period.

This is the reason behind the monthly cut in allotments starting next month.

Inos said the next fiscal year, which begins on Oct. 1, will prove to be tougher.

This is because the projected revenue for FY 2012 is now lower than the original projection of $120 million, taking into consideration the economic impact of the Japan disaster.

"We're going into a deep, low period anyway for the next three or four months… but (the effect is) not as severe as what we expect to see in 2012," Inos said.

Japan remains to be the CNMI's major tourism market, and any drastic cut in Japanese travel is going to further decrease arrivals to the CNMI.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said the Marianas Visitors Authority is still working on the projected amount of losses or number of arrivals that will be affected by the Japan disaster.

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said he believes the $132 million budget for FY 2011 is not realistic from the start.

"It's supposed to be only $120 million not $132 million for FY 2011. And for FY 2012, I think it's only supposed to be $110 million to $115 million, and not $120 million," Tenorio said in a phone interview.

The former governor and speaker, in a letter to Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) on Tuesday, said the Fitial administration has not done anything to reduce further deficit in revenue collection by cutting costs for the rest of FY 2011.

"I suggested one option to the administration on how to go about doing it, but the administration was not listening," Tenorio told Basa.

Tenorio was referring to the need to lay off government employees to be able to cut costs.

"I just don't trust the administration's figures," Tenorio told Basa, on the government's projected revenues for both FYs 2011 and 2012.

Tenorio asked Basa to request from the administration data and any information on how it has arrived at its revenue projections.

"I also hope that this time around, we use worksheets in determining the FY 2012 budget, and therefore, you should ask the administration to provide us whatever preliminary worksheets are already available. (I) would like to have a head start in reviewing the worksheet so that we avoid a shutdown of the government as it happened in FY 2011," Tenorio told Basa.

Basa, who chairs the House Ways and Means Committee, separately said yesterday in a phone interview that he has yet to ask for such information from the administration.

More work hour cuts?

There's no telling yet whether the 9 to 10 percent cut in allotments means many government employees will receive more pay cuts than the 16 hours per payroll they are already subjected to, along with unpaid holidays.

Many government employees now receive 64 hours instead of the regular 80 work hours per two weeks.

Basa said the cuts in monthly allotments in April "will not come as a surprise."

"I pretty much foresaw that. We don't need to read an economic index to know we need to cut expenses… I also think that the $132 million budget for 2011 is not realistic anymore," he said.

Tourism campaign

Inos said in light of the Japan tragedy, the administration may have to reconsider or refocus its new tour agent incentive program.

Under the program, the administration will make available up to $6.2 million in hotel occupancy tax collection for two years, to be able to provide monetary incentive to tour agents for every tourist they could bring into the CNMI from the Japanese cities of Nagoya and Osaka during months that historically have the lowest arrivals.

But because of the Japan quake and tsunami, the target markets may not produce the arrivals expected.

He said the CNMI may therefore need to look at other markets such as South Korea or China, although China may pose concerns related to federal immigration.

"We haven't paid anything so we're not on the losing side as yet but what it does tells us, we might want to refocus or revisit the whole stabilization program and fill up the gap from other destinations like Korea or China. Again, the immigration rules will come into play," he said.

CLOSURES

From Page 1

In early 2000, Hakubotanm then the second biggest duty free shop on Saipan, shut down its store in Chalan Lau Lau.

Many garment factories began closing operations beginning in 2005 when the World Trade Organization lifted trade restrictions. It was in April 2009 when the last of the 34 garment manufacturers standing, finally folded.

The downfall of the garment industry had caused a ripple effect to retail stores, restaurants, and other businesses near the former factories. A check with *Saipan Tribune* over the weekend at areas where the former factories are located, show empty buildings.

A good example was the closure of a restaurant owned by Bazillai Co. Ltd. in 2006. The restaurant suffered losses after Handsome Garment Factory shut down in mid-2006.

Year 2006 was when many businesses were closed as the economy continued to plummet.

Citing the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s increase of electricity rates as among the major factors in 2006, businesswoman Maria Theresa T. Tagorda closed her five businesses on Saipan—Tambayan Restaurant and Lounge, RNT Construction and Contractor, Ma. Teresa T. Tagorda Accounting Services, and Tagorda Entertainment and Promotion Services.

"It's hard to survive. Just take the utilities as an example. It went up dramatically," Tagorda then stated.

Payless Shoes closed its branch in the Garapan area in October 2006, reducing its operations to only one outlet on Saipan.

"With the economic condition that we have right now, why [continue] to open [the Garapan branch]? Payless Shoes Garapan assistant manager Albert Castro then told *Saipan Tribune* days before the closure.

In 2006, the Garapan outlet of Herman's Modern Bakery and Church's Chicken, and apparel store, Uno Shop, closed down.

The slowdown in tourist arrivals and other factors were cited as the reasons to the closure of Plumeria Resort in Achugao in October 2008. The closure further dragged down the number of rooms available in the CNMI.

In 2008, Carmen Safeway and Blockbuster, closed reportedly due to fewer customers and increase in utility rates.

Among the popular businesses that also shutdown in the past 10 years were ESCO's Bakehouse in Capital Hill, La Fiesta Mall, Jollibee, Hawaii Bar & Grill, Green Flash Restaurant, Mary's Restaurant, X-Colors, and Island Locator.

Crimes at tourist sites

Burglars had been victimizing many people, mostly tourists, at beaches at other tourist spots on Saipan, in the past few years.

Lately, burglars were very active at tourist areas, but police were unsuccessful in arresting any of them.

It is the NMI Crime Stoppers Program which has been alerting the public on all these burglary cases.

Last month, a woman parked her car at Last Command Post in Marpi. She later learned that her vehicle was burglarized and a laptop, cell phones, and other items were stolen.

Also last month, three Japanese female tourists were taking pictures at Suicide Cliff in Marpi. When they returned to their pickup truck, they discovered their bags containing money, and other items, missing.

Six other burglary cases happened in February—Ladder Beach, Paupau Beach, Tank Beach, and Forbidden Island. All victims are tourists.

In January, a visiting couple lost money and other items to two burglars at Ladder Beach.

Asked about what the Department of Public Safety is doing to curb the crimes at tourist areas, DPS spokesman Tom Blas told *Saipan Tribune* over the weekend that police officers are now intensifying patrols at places frequented by tourists.

Blas said the Thief Apprehension Select Coalition (TASC) has been reactivated too to arrest these burglars.

The DPS spokesman said Detective Jeffrey Olopai of the Criminal Investigation Bureau is leading the operation. He refused to elaborate so as not to jeopardize ongoing investigations.

Olopai and Sgt. James C. Deleon Guerrero were responsible for recommending the creation in 2002 of TASC, a special group that focused on solving burglary, theft, and robbery cases.

TASC is credited for 107 arrests between July 28 and Dec. 31, 2002. Of those arrests, 104 resulted in convictions.

Another factor that continue scare tourists, was that some employees of beach concessionaires are violent persons if not ex-convicts.

Recently, competition for tourist customers at a beach in Garapan led to a beating and shovel attack involving three employees of beach concessionaires. The incident reportedly happened in front of tourists.

The incident prompted Detective Peter A. Aldan to express concern about such criminal behavior.

"This kind of offense and behavior should not be tolerated especially in front of visiting tourists to our island," Aldan said.

For Josie Pineda, operations manager for Extreme Marine, their customers mostly from Japan are coming back to Saipan because their company and staff use family style in treating them.

Pineda pointed to a Japanese male, who was with their staff conversing on a bench near their booth behind Carolinian Utt in Garapan on Tuesday afternoon, as a good example of their regular customers.

"He visits the island thrice a year," Pineda said.

Central govt owes PSS $9M in last two fiscal years

» OMB approves $28M budget for schools for FY 2012

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@yahoo.com
REPORTER

Public School System officials disclosed yesterday that the central government owes PSS about $9 million in two fiscal years, an amount they said have been acknowledged by the administration and withheld as a result of dwindling government resources.

PSS finance director Richard Waldo confirmed to *Saipan Tribune* during a special board meeting yesterday that the Office of Management Budget also approved a $28 million budget for public schools next fiscal year. The figure will be proposed to the Legislature as part of the overall budget submission of the executive branch. PSS proposed $36 million for FY 2012.

Waldo disclosed that in fiscal year 2010, the administration failed to remit about $1 million in its budget while $8 million will not be received this fiscal year 2011 due to severe government cash-flow problems. Both figures, he added, are significant as they represent the maintenance of effort requirement of the federal government. It can be recalled that PSS since 2010 has been receiving state fiscal stabilization fund from the American Recovery Reinvestment Act which requires that maintenance of effort is maintained. CNMI-PSS was allocated $32.4 million in total SFSF which will expire September this year.

The finance director disclosed that PSS has been tapping some of its federal monies to sustain the payroll of its employees for the past two fiscal years. At average, PSS pays $2.3 million in payroll expenses per pay period.

This fiscal year 2011, PSS has a budget of $30.1 million. However, PSS was already advised that the government can only provide $22 million until the end of fiscal year with the intention to reimburse the remaining budget next fiscal year. The finance director said federal monies were used to supplement this shortfall.

Waldo said the administration, in its numerous meeting with education officials, acknowledged the "debt" it owed to PSS and intends to fulfill its obligation. However, the finance director admitted that the central government only assured for now that the $8 million un-remitted budget of PSS for FY 2011 will be returned in FY 2012.

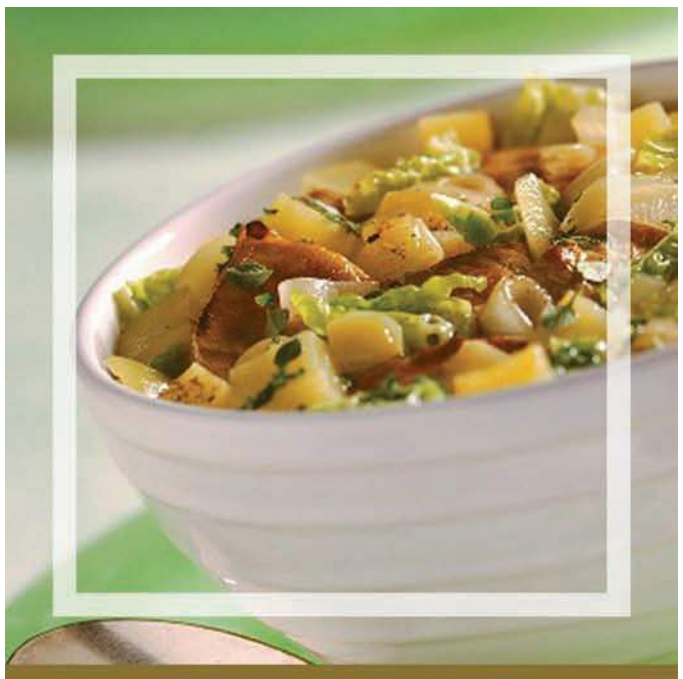
He said despite the anticipated lesser budget for FY 2012, PSS can sustain its operation and payroll in the hopes that $8 million will be reimbursed to the system.

Waldo disclosed that PSS will pay a higher personnel cost starting next fiscal as a result of the education board's goal of hiring only highly qualified personnel who receive higher compensation than those non-HQTs.

At present, 77 percent of classroom teachers in all public schools are highly qualified while 23 percent are in the process of completing all the requirements.

The No Child Left Behind Act mandates that starting July 31, 2011 all school districts must only be filled with highly qualified personnel. In the CNMI-PSS, the Board of Education set three requirements to meet the highly qualified personnel requirement: degree, Praxis, and valid certificates.

There are currently over a thousand PSS employees of whom more than 500 are classroom teachers. This fiscal year, over a hundred of these teachers are paid using federal monies, provided they are highly qualified personnel.



May St. Patrick bless your way!

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NMC names Top 3 candidates for president

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Top 3 candidates for the next president of the Northern Marianas College was revealed by the Board of Regents yesterday.

It said that selection for the college's new executive officer was completed, however the board decided to withhold the name of the final choice pending the result of the criminal and financial investigations being conducted by the Association of Community Colleges Trustees.

Presidential Search Committee chair Andrew Orsini disclosed that from the Top 5 candidates, the Top 3 picks were Drs. Jeff Armstrong, Christa Adams, and Sharon Hart.

Armstrong is the interim president of Muscatine Community College in Iowa; Adams is the former president of Owens Community College in Ohio; while Hart is the current deputy president of University College of the Caribbean in Jamaica.

Orsini, during yesterday's special board meeting, disclosed that reference and background checks for the three individuals were properly reviewed yesterday by the regents. Prior to disclosing their names, the board went into almost an hour of executive session to discuss their decision.

It was on March 4 when the search committee submitted all the rates of the initial five top candidates to the board. The Top 3 names were then determined on March 7 and which an interview was conducted by the board on March 8 and 9.

According to board chair Juan Lizama, the name of the selected candidate will be revealed after the result of financial and criminal investigations being conducted by ACCT. However, Lizama did not give any specific timeframe when the probe will be done.

Lizama pointed out that although the board has already selected a new president, the process is still ongoing and it is still following the board resolution.

"Good news! The board has unanimously selected a president for the college. However, we have reserved the incidence of making an announcement who that person is… because we still have a procedure which is the criminal and financial report," he told the board immediately after the board's executive session.

He commended interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera for her dedication and commitment as she served the presidency for more than a year. Cabrera was named interim president since January 2010 when the then-board suspended and later terminated Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

Lizama described the "decision" as a show of the board's unity in achieving one goal for the institution.

"This is a conscientious effort…and not a rubber-stamp process. Yes, there were disagreements [among members] but in the end, we're united in spirit and heart and we unanimously selected a new president," said Lizama.

'Why no vote?'

The board, after its closed-door meeting yesterday, did not make any vote for the formal selection of new president. The session in public was immediately opened by a statement from the chairman of the board, announcing the Top 3 names.

When asked by *Saipan Tribune* why voting for the final selection didn't take place in the open session, Lizama admitted that no voting occurred during the executive session.

He described the "selection" as a consensus decision of members. Lizama said he doesn't see any wrong in making a decision sans voting, if the members agreed to it.

However, he assured that once results of the ACCT investigation is received, the board will disclose the final result.

'Candidates background'

Based on available data from the Internet, Dr. Jeff Armstrong earned a B.A. degree in English from the University of Iowa, master's degree in instructional design and technology from the same university, and a doctorate degree in social foundations of education, also from University of Iowa. He served various positions and capacities at the university the interim president position which he held at present.

Dr. Sharon Hart, based on the available data on the Web, was raised and born in Michigan and has spent almost 30 years in higher education.

She obtained her doctorate degree from the University of Illinois and studied at Harvard University after completing her doctorate. She also served as president of North Dakota State College of Science, president of Middlesex Community College in Connecticut, and vice president for academic and student affairs at North-Central Technical College in Wisconsin. Hart has served various positions in different colleges and universities.

Meantime, no available educational background was obtained from the Web regarding Dr. Christa Adams.

Of the Top 3 candidates, both Hart and Adams reportedly were voted out from one of their previous positions.

Memorial service, fund drive for Japan victims at Garapan Street Market today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A memorial service will be held for the victims and survivors of Japan's 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami at 6:30pm today at the Garapan Street Market, followed by the official launching of a Japan disaster fund drive.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the fund drive is spearheaded by the Japanese Society of the Northern Marianas and the Marianas Visitors Authority, making it a private sector and public sector initiative.

A booth or a collection point will be set up for the Japan disaster fund drive at tonight's Garapan Street Market, and on March 24 and March 31.

"We're asking everybody in the community to come out and support this cause. It's a very worthy cause and we have to remember that in this time of despair, if this happens to us, we expect these countries to come and help us, too," Demapan told reporters.

He reiterated that Japan "has done so many good things for us and we feel this is our time to give back to them."

Top government officials, including Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and/or Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, will also be at the memorial service and fund drive to show their solidarity and commitment to help those affected by the March 11 Japan disaster.

Fitial arrived back on Saipan early yesterday morning from a medical leave in California and an official trip in Washington, D.C.

Demapan said the Japanese Society of the Northern Marianas and MVA will also be coming up with other relief efforts that will include in-kind donations similar to what was done with the 2009 Samoan relief drive.

'Opening doors'

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos said they are still working on the details of a program wherein CNMI families host Japanese families affected by the earthquake and tsunami.

"We're still making inventory of available assets that we have. People are still calling in, volunteering their residence, but we've got other government, public facilities that may be available for this purpose. It's a work in progress. We try to speed it up. There are issues about immigration and issues about extended parole, things like that. We're not completely done with this thing. We're still exploring it but of course the idea is to try to open up our homes, open up the islands so we can welcome these folks," Inos added.

The official death toll as of Wednesday afternoon reached 3,676, but the number continues to rise as search and recovery efforts continue.

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CLARISSA V. DAVID

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association officials smile for the camera after they donated $1,000 to the American Red Cross NMI Chapter to help relief efforts in Japan.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Tan Siu Lin Foundation vice chair Jerry Tan, fifth right, is flanked by foundation executives, Japan Consul Tsutomu Higuchi, and officers of the American Red Cross NMI Chapter led by executive director John Hirsh during yesterday's donation at the TSL Plaza in Garapan. The foundation donated $10,000 to the local chapter and $15,000 to the Guam chapter to help relief efforts in Japan.

3 groups donate to Japan relief efforts

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Help poured out for Japan yesterday morning as three organizations donated a total of $21,500 to the American Red Cross NMI Chapter to help relief efforts for those affected by the devastating earthquake and tsunami that hit the nation last Friday.

Tan Siu Lin Foundation executives led by vice chair Jerry Tan presented a check worth $10,000 to Red Cross executive director John Hirsh, board members Jocelyn Deleon Guerrero, Jerry Facey, and Lou Johnson yesterday at the TSL Plaza in Garapan.

During the presentation, Tan disclosed that the foundation also donated $15,000 to the Red Cross Guam Chapter.

Tan described what Japan has to go through—the earthquake, tsunami, and now the nuclear crisis—as "just unbelievable."

"Any one of the three events is already huge and they have to deal with all three at the same time," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Tan, Japan has been a "good and important ally" for the Commonwealth and the United States, having impacted the islands significantly through tourism and economic development.

Although Japan is a "very, very strong and wealthy nation who usually doesn't need help," Tan emphasized the need for CNMI residents to "step up and open up our hearts" and help a nation experiencing such a big disaster.

"They've been really good to the CNMI so I think every resident on the island should recognize the role that Japan government and Japanese people have played in our lives," Tan told *Saipan Tribune*.

While Tan noted that providing assistance might be challenging for many in the CNMI because of the current economic situation, he stressed that the amount of donation does not really matter and will be appreciated.

"It's important that we show the Japanese people that no matter how small, we are with them, we want to support them as they recover from the disaster," he explained.

According to Tan, there are many ways to help in this "very difficult situation," including offering prayers for all survivors and victims which is equally important.

Tan, who is also president of the Northern Marianas Badminton Association and the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, talked to the groups' board of directors who gave their full support to donate to a good cause.

NMBA donated $500 while NMIFA donated $1,000.

Tan disclosed that Japan has continuously provided "tremendous support" for the local football program through monetary and technical assistance such as training courses.

"This is a very rare opportunity that we can do something [for Japan]," he added.

Tan said the Tan Holdings also started a donation drive among its employees who want to help with Japan's relief efforts, proceeds for which will also be turned over to American Red Cross

'Longtime supporters'

In an interview, Hirsh said the Red Cross local chapter feels honored for the support of TSL Foundation and Tan Holdings who have been longtime supporters of their organization.

"They're very committed to this community," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Hirsh, all donations handed to them are all earmarked for the Japanese Red Cross which currently has about two million volunteers who are willing to help relieve the sufferings of all those affected.

He said the Red Cross is collaborating with the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Japan Saipan Travel Association, Japanese Society of NMI, and the Hotel Association of the NMI in its efforts to send more help for Japan.

'Grateful'

Japanese Consul Tsutomu Higuchi, who witnessed yesterday's check presentations, expressed his appreciation to the government and people of the CNMI, especially for the three organizations who donated to help relief efforts in Japan.

"On behalf of the government and people of Japan, we thank the community for their generosity in providing aid and assistance to our country," he said.

So far, Higuchi disclosed that only two Japanese nationals living in the CNMI who have families and friends in the Miyagi Prefecture which was heavily affected by the tragedy have sought the Consular Office's help in locating their loved ones.

He noted, however, that it will be difficult to coordinate with the local government in the area for now as the whole town had been totally destroyed by the tsunami.

"We already accommodated their requests and have been in touch with the Japanese government but we have not heard anything yet. What we can do is very limited," Higuchi told *Saipan Tribune*.

Higuchi disclosed that their office began yesterday a book of condolence campaign wherein CNMI residents can write their messages of support and encouragement for the people of Japan.

He said anyone can sign the book from 8:30am to 4:30 pm, except during lunch break, until March 23. The condolence book will then be sent to Japan.

"We invite everybody to write your messages in the condolence book for the people affected by what happened in Japan," Higuchi said.

For information, call the Consular Office at 323-7201 or 02.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Officers of the Northern Marianas Badminton Association, led by president Jerry Tan, pose with Japan Consul Tsutomu Higuchi and American Red Cross NMI Chapter board members after donating $500 for Japan's relief efforts after a devastating earthquake and tsunami hit the nation's northeastern region.

Cape Air to resume regular flights to Rota in June

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Continental Micronesia's Cape Air will resume its regular flights to Rota in June 2011, instead of the original April 2011 recommence date.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) confirmed this to *Saipan Tribune* Tuesday citing the information was directly relayed to her office by the aircraft's regional administrator.

Continental Micronesia announced last year that effective Oct. 5, 2010 it will suspend service to Rota due to required scheduled maintenance work on the 46-seat capacity ATR aircraft that services Guam's A.B. Won Pat International Airport, Rota Airport, and Saipan Airport.

Since the suspension, only Freedom Air has been providing air service to Rota en route to Saipan and Guam.

Santos

Santos said Geoff Price, Cape Air regional administrator, confirmed to her that regular service will commence on June 30, most probably the twice-weekly flights that it used to serve the island.

"We are expecting to have both airplanes operational by our projected Rota start date of June 30. We have all intentions of continuing service at this time," said Price in his email message to the congresswoman last Monday.

Santos was elated upon learning the good news citing the decision of Cape Air to continue the Rota service will bring comfort to the island's air passengers.

She said that since the suspension of the Cape Air service last year, people have been finding it difficult to travel as most service from Freedom Air are fully book.

Cape Air, she said, would provide alternative and choice to the passengers.

Continental Micronesia began providing services to the region in 1968 but Cape Air/Continental Connection began their initial service in the CNMI on July 1, 2004.

Last October, the Legislature passed a resolution acknowledging the valuable service of the airline for six years. The firm was also recognized for its support to the senior citizens on island for their events, supported and donated cargo space for both the Rota annual San Francisco De Borja and San Isidro fiestas, and consistently supported school functions on the island.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 17, 1999

MVA lowers 2000 budget at $5.88M

As the CNMI government project a continuous decline in revenue, the Marianas Visitors Authority will submit a $5.88 million budget for fiscal year 2000 to the Office of Management and Budget which is $1.11 million lower than the current budget. While board chairman Dave M. Sablan yesterday expressed concern that a further reduction in budget would affect efforts to revive the ailing tourism economy, he said MVA will just have to be creative in maximizing the limited resources. "We have no choice but to do everything we can under the circumstances because the economy is down," Sablan said. He lamented that although the island's main economy is tourism, MVA will not be spared from the budget reduction.

PSS eyes experts for bilingual program

The Public School System will upgrade its bilingual program by seeking the help of experts using a federal grant. According to federal programs officer William Matson, the State Education Agency Bilingual Grant will help PSS in data collection to upgrade its existing activities and in seeking technical help from experts. The grant application will be sent out next week to tap federal funding amounting to over $100,000 which will be used next school year. "This is not to provide a great deal of direct services into the classroom rather it is intended to establish state level data collection and technical help," he said.

Mar. 17, 2003

Senate OKs Rota park marine as conservation area

The Senate passed a legislative amendment that seeks to include Rota's Coral Garden and Pinatang Park Marine, along with its surrounding waters, as a protected area under the Managaha Marine Conservation Act. The bill, offered by Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig, earned eight affirmative votes from Senate members during a session Wednesday. Senate Bill 13-25 seeks to declare the Coral Garden and Pinatang Park Marine as a conservation area in order to protect and preserve, by strict regulatory enforcement, the land and water resources for the enjoyment of future generations. The conservation measure is now before the House for action.

NMI students at UoG to celebrate Covenant Day

The GO CNMI (Galaide' of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) student organization of the University of Guam will be sponsoring and observing Covenant Day on Thursday, March 27, at the university campus. The actual commemoration day for this special event is on March 24 but the organization plan to hold the celebration on March 27, with a forum at the UOG CAS Lecture Hall at 10 am. Among those who will be present during the forum are Washington Representative Pete A. Tenorio and NMC instructor Sam McPhetres, who will both speak on different issues. According to GO CMMI president Frank D. Calvo Jr., this activity is part of the month-long celebration of the chartering of the institution and has been endorsed by University President Harold Allen with support from the CNMI Liaison Office.

Mar. 17, 2004

Heinz recognizes time to join committees

The decision by at least two House minority members to officially join standing committees came as no surprise to Minority Leader Heinz S. Hofschneider, who, in fact, called the timing appropriate. First, it was minority Rep. Martin B. Ada who signed up for three committees: Commerce and Tourism, Federal and Foreign Relations and Education. Minority Rep. Benjamin B. Seman officially followed suit last week, signifying his commitment to be a part of the Committee on Health and Welfare. "As we've stated over and over, it was to give the majority time, roughly about three or four months; and this is the appropriate time. Each minority member may, in fact, knock on doors on which committee they're inclined to join.

Babauta meets nurses to address pay gap

Gov. Juan N. Babauta met with the local nurses yesterday morning following complaints of wage disparity between the locally hired and off-island hired nursing staff at the Commonwealth Health Center. Babauta was accompanied by Attorney General Pam Brown, governor's legal counsel Steve Newman, and Office of Personnel Management director Juan I. Tenorio. Also with them were Department of Public Health Secretary James U. Hofschneider, deputy secretary for public health Pete Untalan, and deputy secretary for administration Jack Taitano.

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Volume XXI, Issue No. 64

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Our eyes are on Japan

America's heart goes out to the people of Japan recovering from the triple devastation of earthquakes, a tsunami, and radiation exposure from damaged nuclear plants.

Tragic images from the hardest-hit Sendai region have spurred an outpouring of U.S. aid, with more to come. Even a modern, industrialized nation like Japan will need significant international relief to rescue victims and provide emergency food and shelter.

At least 10,000 people are believed to have died; thousands are missing. More than one million people are without electricity or water. Entire towns have been wiped off the map.

U.S. generosity in such catastrophes is reliable. A list of charities accepting donations for victims can be found at www.interaction.org.

Compounding the destruction has been a cascading series of accidents at nuclear power plants that were damaged by the first quake and subsequent tsunami. Three reactors suffered partial meltdowns after cooling systems failed. Two containment buildings have exploded.

Radiation released in these accidents has caused the government to evacuate nearly 200,000 survivors from the area near the crippled reactors. Among those exposed to the radiation were 17 U.S. military personnel involved in helicopter relief missions.

The crisis has raised inevitable questions about the safety of the U.S. nuclear power industry, which hasn't had a significant accident since 1979 at Three Mile Island. But while the disaster in Japan should prompt U.S. officials to redouble our safety efforts, it's not a signal to retreat on nuclear power, which must be among the alternatives to wean this nation from expensive, polluting fossil fuels.

Twenty-three U.S. plants have the same GE water-boiling reactors with the same containment design as the damaged Fukushima plant.

They include Oyster Creek on Barnegat Bay and Hope Creek in Salem County, N.J., and Peach Bottom 2 in York County, Pa. Oyster Creek, which came online in 1969, is the oldest nuclear power plant in the country. Exelon has said it will close the plant in 2019.

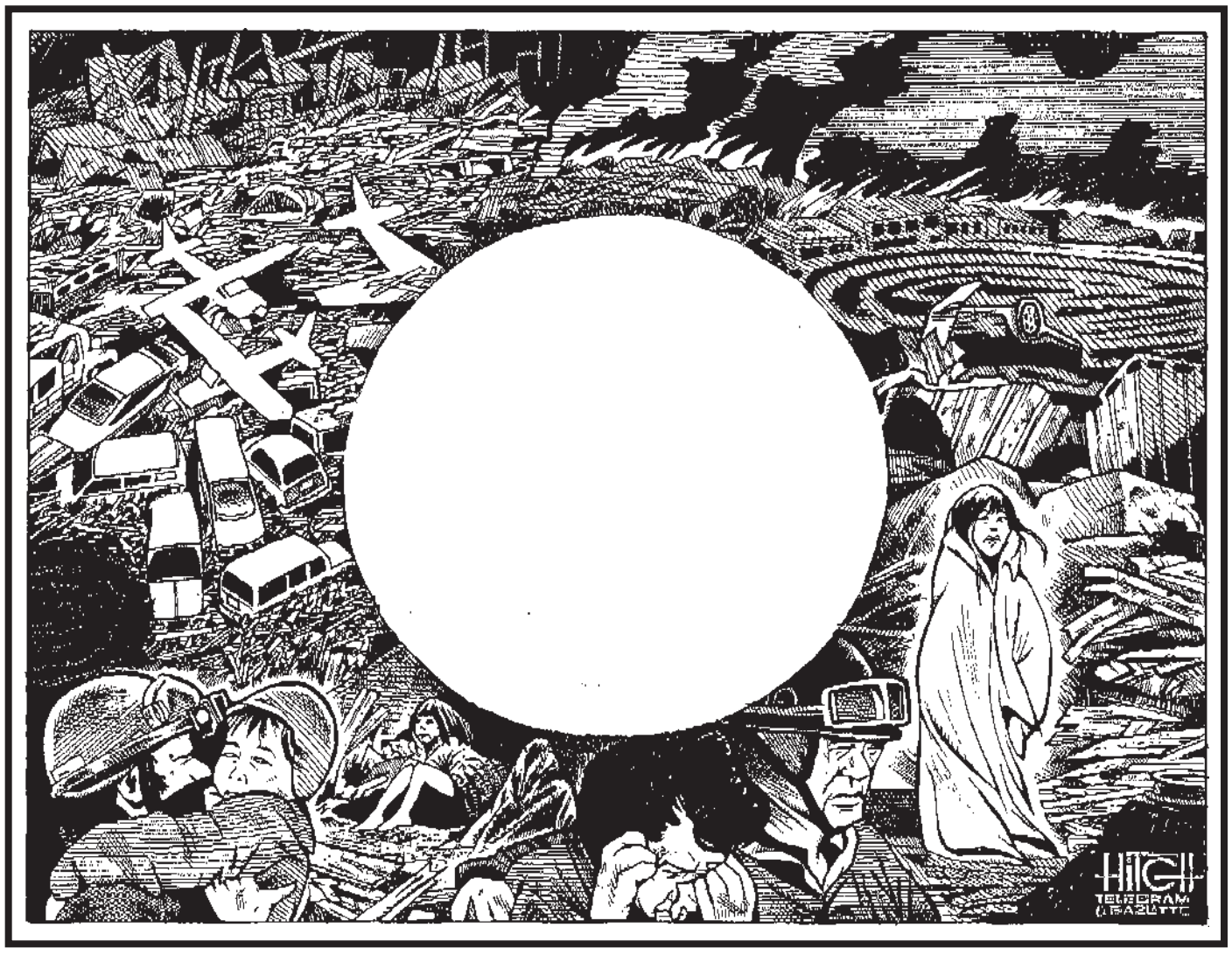
President Obama had good reason to include nuclear energy as an important part of the nation's strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. There are 103 nuclear reactors in the United States, and Obama has called for the government to help ensure tens of billions of dollars in new construction. With reactors costing up to $10 billion apiece, taxpayer guarantees are the only way they'll ever get built.

The lesson of Japan is that we must heighten efforts to ensure U.S. nuclear plants can withstand earthquakes and floods, and have cooling systems that work in virtually any worst-case scenario.

Even if operators at Fukushima succeed with a desperate attempt to cool the damaged reactors with sea water, the effort is ruining any chance of rebuilding those costly plants.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has been conducting a review of seismic threats to reactors east of the Mississippi. The events in Japan merit the most thorough examination possible.

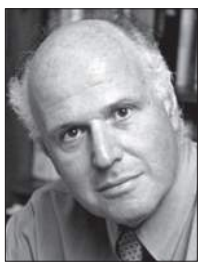
MCT



The birth of the Muslim Brotherhood

By JAY WINTER
Los Angeles Times

Jay Winter is a professor of history at Yale University and the author, with Blaine Baggett, of "The Great War and the Shaping of the 20th Century." *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.



To understand the Muslim Brotherhood, and to assess its role today in a shifting Middle East, it is necessary to first examine the forces that led to the organization's birth. And that takes us back to the collapse of the Ottoman Empire during World War I.

The Ottoman Empire had been, before World War I, the strongest and most visible face of Islam in the world. At its height in the 16th and 17th centuries, it controlled a vast swath of territory that extended from southeastern Europe into Asia and northern Africa. Its territory was greatly diminished by the 20th century, but it was the empire's alliance with Germany in the war that led to its final destruction.

In the aftermath of the war, the remains of the Ottoman Empire were partitioned by the victors, which gave the Western powers far more influence in the Middle East and created enormous tension in Islamic populations.

In Turkey, Mustafa Kemal (later given the last name Ataturk, or father of the Turks) eventually ascended to power. The hero of Gallipoli, who blunted and then defeated the British-French invasion at the straits of the Dardanelles in 1915, Kemal was also the man who thwarted Western plans to partition Turkey into imperial holdings and who rallied the Turkish army to defeat a Greek invasion. The result was a Turkified nation, one in which religion was separated from power. Ataturk's Turkey was committed under his leadership to joining the Western world—in language, in dress, in its commitment to development and to military power. And in this project, Ataturk by and large succeeded. Turkey today is his greatest achievement.

But Ataturk's insistence on a largely secular government also sparked a counter-movement of Muslims who wished to save Islam from the polluting contact with the West. In Egypt, this led to the Muslim Brotherhood.

Egypt, a constitutional monarchy from 1922 and a member of the League of Nations from 1937, was unable to establish a stable political system, in part because of the continuing presence of British forces controlling the Suez Canal and heavily influencing the Egyptian government. Among the Egyptians concerned about creeping Westernization was Hassan Banna, the son of a watch repairman, who as a 13-year-old in 1919 had taken part in nationalist riots demanding self-determination for Egyptians. When that push failed, he became increasingly concerned about the deleterious moral and political consequences of Westernization. The decline of Islamic civilization, he held, could be reversed only by a return to the faith.

To this end, in Ismailia in 1928 Banna helped organize a band of teachers and activists known as the Muslim Brothers. Though its origins lay in a broader Islamic reform movement, the aim of the Muslim Brotherhood was to make the Quran the sole or primary reference point ordering the life of Muslims in their daily lives, in their families, their villages and towns, and their nations. He was a preacher and a grass-roots activist, speaking wherever he could, in mosques and coffeehouses alike.

The group's work was charitable and educational, but its members also flew the flag of a return to Islamic roots, purged of contact with other traditions. The group harnessed widespread resentment at the heavy presence of British troops and the ostentatious wealth of the expatriate community, there to run the Suez Canal. This Muslim anti-colonial message found a receptive audience and soon had created a mass organization dangerous to British domination and the Egyptian monarchy alike.

In the early 1940s, some members of the Muslim Brotherhood formed armed groups, linked to a number of violent incidents. The group's membership rose to 500,000. In 1948, Banna called for volunteers to fight in Palestine. The Egyptian government moved to break up the movement, arresting hundreds of its members. That move was unsuccessful, triggering the assassination of the Egyptian prime minister by a Muslim Brother in December 1948. Three months later Banna was shot too and died of his wounds, which, according to some sources, were deliberately left untreated in the hospital, on orders of the government. But his legacy was not so easy to eradicate.

The Muslim Brothers arose in response to the unraveling of British control of the Middle East before 1948. The same crisis also shaped Palestine itself. The parallel and contradictory British commitments to nationalist movements of the Arabs and to nationalist movements of the Jews set up an explosive mix that has yet to be defused.

In Galilee, eight young Zionists—including the one-armed Joseph Trumpeldor—died in an encounter with Shiite Muslims in March 1920. These eight gave their name to the town of Kiryat Shemona, a war memorial in its own right. In April 1920, five Jews and four Arabs died and hundreds were wounded in riots in the Old City of Jerusalem. In May 1921, 48 Arabs and 45 Jews, including the great Hebrew writer Yosef Haim Brenner, were killed in riots in Jaffa. The pattern of bloodshed in the modern Middle East was set in stone and suffering then and there.

When giants collapse, Tacitus said, take cover. An ailing giant it may have been, but Ottoman Turkey was a giant nonetheless. Its collapse led both to an expansion of imperial power on the winners'

See BIRTH on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

UN agency where foxes guard the hen house

By FRIDA GHITIS
McClatchy Newspapers

Frida Ghitis writes about global affairs for The Miami Herald. *Readers may send her e-mail at fjghitis@gmail.com.*

Imagine a tribunal where governments appear to face the world's judgment on their respect for human rights. Now imagine Moammar Gadhafi's Libya sitting on that tribunal. It sounds absurd. But it is the true picture of the U.N. Human Rights Council.

World leaders display something of a "who, me?" attitude, as if they only discovered Gadhafi's viciousness in the last few weeks, after he responded to calls for democracy by slaughtering his own people. But Gadhafi's outrages, not just his buffoonery, have been well known for decades. And yet, on May 13, 2010—less than a year ago—the United Nations elected Libya to the UNHRC. An astonishing 155 countries, 80 percent of the U.N. members, supported Libya's bid. Nobody, not the United States, not Britain, not France, Sweden, Norway or any other of the countries that claim high moral standing spoke against the decision.

On March 1, suddenly stirring up from its Orwellian stupor, the U.N. suspended Libya from the human-rights body. By then, the Security Council had already noted that Gadhafi's actions "may amount to crimes against humanity."

The international community, the U.N. system, and nations in a position of global leadership, such as the United States, have displayed a baffling willingness to go along with the affronts to common sense and basic morality that have become routine at the UNHRC and other parts of the U.N. system. Obscenities such as Libya's finally suspended membership in the council, continues unabated, with their full knowledge and complicity.

Only days ago, as U.N. members stopped averting their eyes from Libya's presence in the human-rights body, the Islamic Republic of Iran took its seat on the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women, a body "dedicated exclusively to gender equality and the advancement of women."

What can you say about Iran and its treatment of women? There's Article 630 of Iran's criminal code, which allows a man to kill his wife if she is unfaithful. In court, a woman's testimony is worth half that of a man. Women are not allowed to divorce their husbands, for example, and they are required by law to always wear head covers and cloaks in public. As it happens, Iran does not have the worst record on women's rights on the CSW. Saudi Arabia, where conditions are far, far worse for women, also sits on the commission.

Saudi Arabia also sits on the Human Rights Council, along with other luminaries of oppression. That helps explain why the UNHRC, instead of working to protect human rights, has turned into a body devoted to the protection of human rights abusers.

Just imagine, the UNHRC's agenda for March 18 called for it to adopt a report about Gadhafi's Libya, in which the regime received lavish praise on its human rights record from countries including North Korea, Syria, Myanmar (Burma), Cuba, Saudi Arabia, and others. You could not make this up. Nobody would believe it.

The U.N. system is set up in such a way that repressive, undemocratic regimes wield enormous power. This affects many aspects of its work, but is most egregious in the UNHRC, where the organization generally divides its time between condemning Israel and praising tyrants.

The UNHRC payroll includes Libya's Najat al-Hajaji, chosen to investigate _ get this _ the victims of mercenaries. Hajaji has a close relationship with Gadhafi, who today uses mercenaries to crush the opposition. Another astonishing UNHRC choice is Jean Ziegler, a special rapporteur on food issues. Ziegler, a fervent anti-American, co-founded the Moammar Gadhafi Human Rights prize, and won it in 2002. Then there is the UNHRC Palestinian expert, Richard Falk. Falk believes 9/11 was a U.S. plot, and has openly supported other 9/11 conspiracy theorists. U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon recently condemned Falk's "affront to the memory" of 9/11 victims.

The list goes on. The pernicious actions go on. The outrages against victims of torture and abuse go on. The mockery of human rights and women's rights goes on. The praise of dictators goes on. The neglect of important issues continues.

One might think Libya was a wake-up call, but we know the world was not asleep. The world was awake, watching and doing nothing.

Making more by breaking even

By RIK VILLEGAS
Special to the Tribune

Rik Villegas is a writer, business consultant and instructor at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at http://rikv.blogspot.com.

How much would it be worth to your business if you could easily attract 50, 100, or 200 more people to shop at your business and have 10 percent become customers who regularly buy from you? If you understand the concept of the lifetime value of a customer, those 20 new customers could make a significant difference to your bottom line. For example, if the average purchase of a customer is $15, and they purchase at least once per month for a buying lifetime of 20 years then those 20 customers are worth $3,600 in sales each year, and $72,000 over time.

Most businesses make it far too difficult for someone to find them, initially buy from them, and develop a long-term buying relationship. So the first step is to let your prospects know you exist, and then have a compelling offer that makes it easy for them to make an initial purchase. Imagine your sales process as a large funnel that brings in interested prospects at the top, and as they filter down the funnel some may not return; however, others will become loyal, long-term customers. In order to find those high-value customers, you need to have an effective hook that pulls them into the funnel and allows them to experience what you have to offer.

Many businesses are using a technique to ethically bribe new prospects with an offer that is so good it is difficult to resist. They've learned that if they can break-even with a front-end offer, they will more than make up for it in revenue from backend offers and repeat sales from a percentage who become loyal, long-term customers.

You may be aware of companies who offer incredible deals to join their club, membership, or to try their special for a ridiculously low price. They know from their transaction metrics that for every 100 people who take advantage of the promotion, a certain percentage of them will continue to make purchases that will more than pay for the initial losses.

There are numerous Internet buyers' group sites in the U.S. such as LivingSocial.com and Groupon.com that offer deals from local businesses at 50 percent or more off the retail price. They usually have a minimum number that must be sold for the deal to go, and they encourage the use of social media for people to spread the word on the deal. Dozens and often hundreds are sold within a short time period, and the business offering the deal has no advertising or promotion expenses because they only pay a commission on what is sold, and if there are not enough people buying to make the deal go, there is no cost to the business.

Living Social has recently taken the Internet by storm for attracting over a million purchases in just hours by offering a $20 Amazon.com gift card for just $10. That's over $10 million in sales, and Amazon.com may do better than breakeven on the deal because many of the purchases will be over $20. It's also likely that many of the gift certificates will be used by first-time purchasers to Amazon, thereby increasing their customer base.

An air conditioning maintenance company offers a $20 tune-up and cleaning service and loses $10 on each sale. However, the owner has tracked sales and discovered that 50 percent of the individuals who take advantage of the service have an immediate problem that needs to be repaired at the same time as the tune-up, and the minimum cost is over $100. So for every two customers, he loses $20, but makes at least $100. In addition, half of all the new people taking advantage of the service will become regular, full-paying customers who represent half of all the new customers he acquires in a year.

Even though the most common method to get someone to buy from you is to lower your price, here are a few other alternatives you can use. If your product sells for $100 and your allowable selling or marketing cost is $50, you can charge the $100 and use the $50 as a referral incentive for your customers or salespeople.You could also use the extra $50 to add additional bonuses from products or services you sell to make the sale worth twice as much to a first-time buyer. Another idea is to rent promotional space at other businesses and pay the owner of the business the extra $50 for every new customer that buys your product. This allows you to work in a strategic alliance to build your customer base from the existing customers of several non-competing businesses.

Attracting new customers at a breakeven, while making substantial sales on back-end repurchases is one of the most powerful, yet underutilized methods to grow your business. However, this method will only work for you if you have quality products and excellent service that will keep customers coming back to your business. It may also require you to shift your mindset from looking at the present value of a first-time sale to focusing on the future value of each customer. Instead of trying to make a large profit on the front-end, your focus will be to make more by breaking even on the initial purchase so you can profit from all the repeat purchases in the future.

Letters to the Editor

It's now our turn

The call by our lieutenant governor to open our homes for the victims of the recent Japan earthquake is one that we should accept with open arms. For a very long time, in good times and in bad, we depended to a certain extent on Japanese tourist to carry our economy. It is our turn to show respect and support to that nation and her people that they are indeed welcome. I for one am willing to take in survivor victims in my home to feed and house them. I live in Sinapalo 1 village on Rota and can be contacted at 532-0350 or 0349. It will be nice if those of us with extra room in their home can open their arms for this call by our lieutenant governor.

Frank M. Atalig
Sinapalo 1, Rota

Nuclear energy or nuclear disaster?

A few years ago, several individuals religiously pushed our government to explore other sources of power generation: one being nuclear energy.

If pushed through, we may have a nuclear power plant built on Saipan. I had made references to past disasters of other countries that nuclear disasters could also happen in the CNMI.

Yes, everyone wants and needs cheaper reliable and continuous energy but the risk is high. Regardless of the most advanced technology and design, there will always be that risk factor. Even our power plants are like a time bomb waiting to explode. Is CUC waiting for a casualty to happen? If we had a nuclear plant on our island and had a disaster similar to Japan, where are we going to evacuate in a 12-mile radius? Meaning to say, no one could be on island due to radiation exposure. Everyone one must go, even if we did, can we make it out on time? Our lawmakers should scrap the idea of introducing this option because I don't think we want to be exposed to anything and settle somewhere else. Why take a risk to risk it all?

Vince G. Cabrera
Chalan Piao

BANMI extends deepest sympathy

The Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands extends its deepest sympathy to the Japan Basketball Association, and to all of the people of Japan. Our thoughts are with you at this time, and we send our hopes and best wishes for a speedy and full recovery from the tragic events of the past few days.

Antonio I. Rogolifoi, BANMI president
Michael A. White, BANMI secretary-general

BIRTH

From Page 10

side in the war, and to an ongoing war against the West's manipulation of the region in its own economic and strategic interests.

Now, nearly a century later, we see the same forces arrayed in the same chronic, bloody struggle, with no end in sight. If you think the explosive forces of World War I are the stuff of ancient history, think again.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy and windy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy and windy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

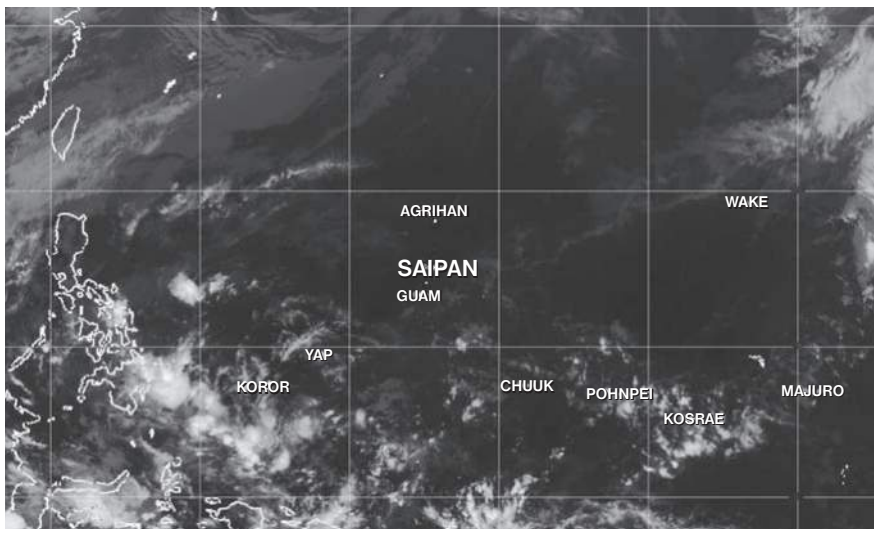
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼64
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼33
Hong Kong	Showers	▲58	▼57
Honolulu	Showers	▲82	▼72
London	Rain	▲50	▼37
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼48
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84	▼74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼53
Miami	Sunny	▲83	▼66
New York	Sunny	▲61	▼47
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲50	▼34
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲56	▼40
Pusan	Cloudy	▲54	▼38
Rome	Showers	▲63	▼47
Salem	Showers	▲50	▼42
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲51	▼30
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲51	▼35
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲64	▼50

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough runs southeastward from 5N130E to EQ138E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring south of Koror and Yap or south of a line from 8N130E to 6N135E to 6N140E. A cold front cuts across the northwest corner of the discussion area from 19N130E to 25N146E. Clouds and patchy rain are found southeast of Okinawa or north of a line from 20N130E to 22N137E to 25N142E. A shear line extends northeastward from 15N150E through a weak circulation centered west of Wake Island at 19N158E to end at 24N176E west of 156E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and up to 75 miles northwest of this boundary. East of 156E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are taking place along and up to 350 miles northwest of the shear line. A surface trough reaches northeastward from 13N166E to 24N176E. Numerous showers are located east of Wake Island within 125 miles of a line from 16N175E to 24N177E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers just southeast of Pohnpei in an area bounded by a line from 8N159E to 5N168E to 1N159E back to 8N159E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:15 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
11:57 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
5:20 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:23 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM
Monday	6:21 AM	6:28 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:55 PM	3:54 AM
Friday	4:56 PM	4:42 AM
Saturday	5:59 PM	5:29 AM
Sunday	6:59 PM	6:16 AM
Monday	8:01 PM	7:04 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, ,4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, ,4 ,5, 7
DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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IN CASE AGAINST EX-DETENTION GUARD

US govt to present testimony of forensic child interview specialist

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government wants to present expert testimony of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's forensic child interview specialist and a licensed clinical social worker in the jury trial of former detention guard Tyron Farley Reyes Fitial.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto filed Tuesday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI two notices of the U.S. government's intent to use expert testimony of FBI forensic child interview specialist Karen Blackwell, and licensed clinical social worker Philip Tedeschi.

As this developed, Benedetto also filed Tuesday a motion to continue to May 16, 2011 the jury trial of Fitial.

The indictment charged the 25-year-old Fital with deprivation of rights under color of law and enticement of a minor. He allegedly forced three female wards to engage in sex acts.

Benedetto said Blackwell will testify concerning disclosure and minimization issues associated with sexual assault and abuse of minor or juvenile victims.

He said Blackwell will also testify about other challenges in interviewing child victims, particularly those with developmental or intellectual delays.

On the other hand, the prosecutor said, Tedeschi will testify concerning issues associated with sexual assault and abuse of minor or juvenile victims, the trauma associated with sexual abuse, and the reluctance in reporting when the victim is in the custody of the abuser.

On the motion to continue trial, Benedetto cited among the reasons, is that there is no visiting judge scheduled to be in Saipan during the month of April, to cover the current trial date of April 18.

Attorney Joseph Norita Camacho, counsel for Fitial, filed yesterday an opposition to the U.S. government's motion to continue trial to May, saying he has five jury trials in Superior Court in that month.

"While defense counsel can offer a fearless defense for each and every client, defense counsel can not break the laws of physics and be in two places at the same time," Camacho said.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Security officer Abdullah Al Mamun of G4S Security services (CNMI) Inc. is named employee of the month for February 2011. He is assigned at Pacific Islands Club Saipan. He is shows here after being presented with his certificate of appreciation by G4S CNMI branch manager Moises K. Pangelinan and safety and security supervisor Farid Islam.

OAG admits lack of time to look into police brutality complaint

The federal court yesterday extended the time for the Office of the Attorney General to respond to a man's police brutality lawsuit.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge John A. Houston allowed the OAG to file until April 18, 2011 the defendants' answer to the complaint filed by Quirino G. Adlaon.

Adlaon, through counsel Vicente Salas, agreed with the extension.

Assistant attorney general James Mitchell, counsel for the defendants, stated that the government has had insufficient time to investigate this matter in order to make informed responsive pleadings.

Adlaon is suing corrections officer Jesse Reyes Babauta for allegedly assaulting him in an attack that knocked his teeth loose.

He is also suing former Corrections Commissioner Dolores San Nicolas Aldan, former Corrections director Gregory F. Castro, police commissioner Santiago F. Tudela, former police officer Patrick Maanao, police officers Jesse Cepeda and Roque Camacho, and the departments of Corrections and Public Safety. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW11-IFB-006

LAOLAO BEACH PERMEABLE PARKING AREA CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Laolao Beach Permeable Parking Area Construction Project, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on or after **March 10, 2011** at DPW Technical Services Division 1353 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill. A non-refundable payment of Twenty Five Dollars **($25.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Preference is available to US Citizen as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118. Prospective bidders claiming for US Citizen preference are required to submit *P&S Form 100 (Revised 12/20/07)* with their sealed bids.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **March 18, 2011, 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Gualo Rai Conference room. The prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the project site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 21, 2011** to Anthony A. Camacho Acting Director of Technical Services Division, DPW 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW11-IFB-006"**. An original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **March 22. 2011** at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be caused for rejection of the bid.

A bid bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Security of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Performance time for completion of the project is Ninety **(90)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars **(US$100.00)** per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bids documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

/S/ RITA C. DELA CRUZ
Administrator, CRM

NIMO submits budget request

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Of the $344,937.75 budget request submitted by the Northern Islands Mayor's Office for the next fiscal year, about 73 percent or $251,137.75 will be allotted to personnel costs.

The total personnel costs cover the annual salaries of 11 full-time employees, which include the mayor; one administrative officer; one program manager/fiscal officer; one mayor's representative each in Pagan, Agrigan, and Alamagan; and five community workers.

Personnel costs also cover expenses such as personnel insurance, health insurance, retirement, 401k, and Medicare contributions.

NIMO also requested for $50,000 in professional services, which involve ocean vessel and helicopter or airplane charters to transport people and supplies to and from the Northern Islands.

The budget request also covers $6,000 for utilities in NIMO's Saipan Field Office, $4,000 for food and water supply for employees and workers during official field and emergency trips to the Northern Islands; $5,000 to cover expenditures for acquisition, addition, and replacement of tools and equipment; and $5,000 for fuel and lubrication costs for said equipment and vehicles.

"The budget request represents the NIMO's efforts to provide vital public services and to coordinate permanent resettlement of the islands of Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrigan," Northern Islands Mayor Tobias Aldan said in his request.

Aside from accomplishing their resettlement plan, Aldan said the 2012 budget request will also enable his office to create economic development programs and establish sustainable communities for returning residents of the Northern Islands.

Although he noted the remote location of the Northern Islands as a challenge in the delivery of public services, Aldan urged the government to "exercise more fairness, compassion, and sensitivity" to ensure allocation and distribution of limited funds and other resources.

"I hope that as you deliberate on the budget and begin funding allocation, you will find it in your hearts to consider and grant our request," he said.

Aldan added that the NIMO expects to achieve the implementation of the Northern Island Homestead Act of 2008 and the designation of a 5,000 square meters public land with the cooperation and assistance of the Department of Public Lands.

For FY 2012, Aldan said NIMO will also pursue the revival of the Pagan Airstrip, seek federal funding for the development of the Northern Islands, meet the 1,000 population requirement of the CNMI Constitution to become a Senatorial District, and the introduction of laws that will allow the mayor to receive permit fees for fishing and hunting licenses, similar to the Tinian Mayor's control on Goat Island.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday grandma Josepha Taitano Camacho. Many more birthdays to come and we love you. Greetings from A.J., R,J., J.D., and Princess.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 3rd birthday to our baby boy Vincent John Lg. Agulto. May today be filled with sunshine and smiles, laughter, and love. Love always Grandma, Grandpa, Mom, Dad, V.J., Erica, and Jr.

2011 Economic Restoration Summit on March 22-23

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Commerce, are hosting the 2nd Economic Restoration Summit of 2011.

The summit will be a two-day event set for March 22 and 23 at the World Resort on Saipan and video-teleconferenced live to the Northern Marianas College campuses on Rota and Tinian.

The Economic Restoration Summit of 2011 is made possible through the Rural Business Enterprise Grant funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

This year's summit will include guest presentations for specific industries identified in the 1st Economic Restoration Summit of 2009.

Those industries include agriculture, aquaculture, education and eco-tourism, and call centers.

Presentations will be made by industry specialists and practitioners in these areas. The presentations will provide information on each industry as it relates to global market trends and opportunities for the CNMI to develop sustainable business ventures.

For those who have not registered for the 2011 summit, a form is now available and can be completed through the ERS website at ers.commerce.gov.mp. Register early to reserve your seat and for your chance to win airfare to Manila or Guam. The drawing will be conducted on March 23 after the final presentations (must be present to win). Early registration closes on March 18.

The first day of the summit will include presentations from resident practitioners and industry experts. Attendees of the ERS of 2011 are encouraged to participate in discussions following the presentations by asking questions and offering comments and recommendations. The second day of the Summit will allow participants to break away into individual industry groups to develop a specific plan of action to determine industry viability and needs for future growth and development. The second day will conclude with group presentations of the findings of each industry breakout session.

The ERS website contains additional information about the history of the Economic Restoration Summit and details of the 2011 summit. To find out more about the 2011 Economic Restoration Summit visit ers.commerce.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

Naval Base Guam earns Navy environmental award

U.S. NAVY/ANNETTE DONNER

U.S. Naval Base Guam commanding officer Capt. Richard Wood, front center, stands with NBG Public Works Officer commander Michael Thornton, and NBG Public Works Environmental Division personnel on steps built by Japanese prisoners of war in 1946, one of the many historic sites on NBG maintained by the Navy. Pictured in the first row, left to right, are Omar Damian, environmental engineer, Wood, and Thornton. Second row, from left, are Gretchen Grimm, natural resources specialist; Lon Bulgrin, archaeologist; and Ronald Rossetti, Installation Environmental Program manager. Third row, from left, are Paul Wenninger, natural resources specialist; Blaise Koki, environmental protection specialist; and Ramon Camacho, hydrologist. Fourth row, from left, are Roberto Cabreza, environmental protection specialist; Kevin Brindock, natural resources specialist; and Jeffrey Lambrecht, environmental planner.

SANTA RITA, Guam—Naval Base Guam has been awarded the 2010 Cultural Resources Management Installation Award. This prestigious award is one of the categories of the Chief of Naval Operations 2010 Environmental Awards Recognition Program.

"The program recognizes exceptional environmental stewardship by Navy ships, installations, individuals, or teams and this award recognizes the stellar job Naval Base Guam Environmental Office does leading all the initiatives in the area of cultural resources management on the installation," said Capt. Richard Wood, commanding officer, Naval Base Guam.

According to the Installation Cultural Resources manager Lon Bulgrin, the award recognizes the strenuous efforts that personnel on Naval Base Guam put into protecting and preserving the many historical and cultural sites under Naval Base Guam's stewardship on Guam and the island of Tinian which represent more than 3500 years of history in the Marianas.

According to Installation Environmental program manager Ron Rossetti, Naval Base Guam Public Works Department collaborates closely with the Guam State Historic Preservation Office about the efforts the Navy undertakes as it preserves and protects the historical and cultural resources and artifacts located or occasionally found on the Naval Base Guam.

"We also have a good working relationship with the Japan Consul General for the times we unearth Japanese WWII remains and artifacts during construction projects," said Rossetti. ***(USN)***

CDA board member wants MVA to focus on Russia, China markets too

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Although Japan will continue to be the CNMI's main tourism market, Commonwealth Development Authority board member Nathan Quichocho maintained that developing the Chinese and Russian tourist markets should also be a priority.

"If the priority is our economy, we need to continue to also focus on Chinese and Russian markets," said Quichocho.

Citing data from Marianas Visitor's Authority, Quichocho said the Japanese outbound tourists has remained stagnant at around 13 to 17 million per year since 2000 which "makes our future regarding this market a difficult one."

He said Japan is in "poor state of economy" even before the powerful 8.9-magnitude earthquake that triggered a tsunami devastated the nation since its gross domestic product contracted by 1.3 percent towards the end of 2010.

"According to Lawrence Summers, the director of the White House National Economic Council, this is certainly the worst thing for a fragile Japanese economy," said Quichocho, adding that reconstruction costs will be difficult with their budget deficit.

Quichocho noted, however, that the Japanese tourists are still a highly coveted market because they have greatly contributed to the CNMI's tourism industry in the '80s and '90s as well as for their polite nature and great spending.

According to Quichocho, the number of China's outbound tourists has increased from 4.5 million in 1995 to 56 million in 2010 while Russian tourists stay longer in the islands and spend more money than most other tourist markets.

He added that while it is still too early to grasp the full negative impact of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan to the CNMI, he said the situation is "awful for the CNMI economically but more so on a humanitarian level."

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Business

Japan disaster another worry for global economy

By ERIKA KINETZ
AP BUSINESS WRITER

AP
Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Tuesday, March 15, 2011.

Japan's earthquake and nuclear crisis have put pressure on the already fragile global economy, squeezed supplies of goods from computer chips to auto parts and raised fears of higher interest rates.

The disaster frightened financial markets in Tokyo and on Wall Street on Tuesday. Japan's Nikkei average lost 10 percent, and the Dow Jones industrials fell so quickly after the opening bell that the stock exchange invoked a special rule to reduce volatility.

Yet the damage to the U.S. and world economies is expected to be relatively moderate and short-lived. Oil prices are falling, helping drivers around the world. And the reconstruction expected along Japan's northeastern coast could even provide a jolt of economic growth.

A weaker Japanese economy could help ease global commodity prices because Japan is a major importer of fuel, agricultural products and other raw materials, notes Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics. Oil prices fell more than $4 to $97.18 a barrel Tuesday because of expectations that quake damage will slow Japan's economy and reduce its demand for energy.

Even "assuming a drastic scenario," Bank of America economist Ethan Harris estimates, the disaster would shave just 0.1 percentage point off global economic growth—to 4.2 percent this year.

"Japan has not been an engine of global or Asian growth for some time," says Nariman Behravesh, chief economist at IHS Global Insight. "This means that the impact of much lower Japanese growth on the world economy will be probably limited and small."

Japan is only half as important to the world's economy as it was during its last major disaster, the 1995 Kobe earthquake. And the area hit hardest by Friday's quake accounts only about half as much economic output as the area damaged by the Kobe quake, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development estimates.

Japan proved resilient after the Kobe quake: Manufacturers returned to normal production levels within 15 months, according to the CLSA. Four in every five shops were back open in a year and a half. All told, Japan's comeback defied dire warnings that it would take a decade to rebuild.

Autos and auto parts make up more than one-third of U.S. imports from Japan. As a result, shutdowns of Japanese auto factories could disrupt production at U.S. plants owned by Japanese automakers.

At the same time, some U.S. auto parts makers could benefit if Japanese plants in the United States substitute U.S. parts for those they usually get from Japan, Behravesh says.

A big wild card is the fate of Japan's damaged nuclear power plants. The Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, the center of the concern, let off a burst of radiation on Tuesday. Radiation levels in the surrounding area subsided by evening, but unease in Japan did not.

"If the nuclear crisis turns into a full-blown catastrophe, then the negative effect on growth this year will be much larger," IHS' Behravesh says.

Another unknown is the impact of the disruptions to Japan's power supplies. Behravesh estimates about 10 percent of Japan's electricity generation could be off line for several months. If so, that would disrupt steel, auto and other production.

Investors fear that Japan will struggle to finance reconstruction, which is expected to cost the government at least $200 billion. The Japanese government's debt is already an alarming 225 percent of the country's economic output.

Some worry that Japan will sell some of its vast holdings of U.S. government debt to raise money. Doing so would push the prices of U.S. Treasury bonds down and yields up, raising U.S. interest rates.

But Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner on Tuesday dismissed the fears of a Japanese fire sale of Treasury debt.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

EU to apply stress tests on its nuclear plants

BRUSSELS (AP)—Shocked into action by Japan's atomic crisis, European energy officials agreed Tuesday to apply stress tests on nuclear power plants and Germany moved to switch off seven aging reactors—one of them permanently. The European Union's energy chief called for a reassessment of the 27-nation bloc's energy policy, and questioned what role nuclear power should have in the future. "We have to ask ourselves: Can we in Europe, within time, secure our energy needs without nuclear power plants?" EU Energy Commissioner Guenther Oettinger told German ARD television.

China orders stepped-up radiation checks at ports

BEIJING (AP)—China is ordering strengthened radiation monitoring of shipments arriving at its ports in the wake of Japan's nuclear emergency. The order was issued Wednesday from the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine. It aims to track any goods contaminated by leaks from the nuclear plants damaged from Friday's earthquake and tsunami. China is Japan's largest trading partner, and two-way trade rose 30 percent in 2010 over the previous year to reach $300 billion. Japan's exports to China rose 36 percent during the year to almost $150 billion.

Fed says economic recovery on firmer footing

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve offered its most optimistic view of the U.S. economy since the recession ended, even as Japan's nuclear crisis stoked new worries around the globe. The economic recovery is on "firmer footing" and the jobs market is "improving gradually," the Fed declared in its statement released at the conclusion of its meeting Tuesday. That's a more upbeat tone from its previous meeting on Jan. 26, when Fed policymakers said the rate of economic activity was "insufficient" to bring about "significant improvement" in the job market.

Nation

Napolitano: US drills for disasters like Japan's

DENVER (AP)—U.S. emergency agencies constantly rehearse for a disaster like the one unfolding in Japan, and American first responders will learn from the experience of their Japanese counterparts, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said Tuesday.

Napolitano

Napolitano, speaking at a conference in Denver, said the United States was already planning a drill based on a hypothetical major earthquake along the New Madrid fault in the central U.S. when the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear-reactor crisis struck Japan.

"We are constantly practicing, using scenarios that are worst-case scenarios, to make sure we are as prepared and as up-to-date and as ready to go as we can be in any kind of a crisis," she said.

The drill, scheduled for May, coincides with the bicentennial of a series of three quakes on the New Madrid fault in 1811-1812, which were estimated to have ranged from 7.5 to 7.7 magnitude—some of the largest ever in the United States. The U.S. Geological Survey says there is a 7 to 10 percent chance of a similar quake occurring in that area in the next 50 years.

The New Madrid fault system is 150 miles long and touches five states: Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee.

Napolitano said her department works with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to practice responding to a crisis at a nuclear reactor.

"We think about how we would manage a crisis where you lose all your communications capability, all your critical infrastructure, there's no electricity, you can't even pump water for people to drink," she said.

Napolitano said it's too early to say whether U.S. practices or preparations will change because of the disasters in Japan. But she said the U.S. will learn from Japan's experience, as it did from Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico last year.

The U.S. is focusing now on providing whatever assistance the Japanese government asks for, Napolitano said. She said the NRC and the Energy Department have told her Japan is responding to the nuclear crisis the way U.S. agencies would.

NYC bus crash spotlights cut-rate bus companies

NEW YORK (AP)—Cut-rate bus companies. Driver fatigue. And the need for safer windows and roofs. The New York bus crash that killed 15 people on their way home from a casino has focused renewed attention on problems federal safety investigators have been warning about for years.

The cause of Saturday's wreck is still under investigation; authorities called the driver in for questioning Tuesday. But officials said this much was clear already: Because of past offenses, his driving privileges had been suspended, and he shouldn't even have been behind the wheel.

The National Transportation Safety Board is studying the crash to see whether new safety technologies that are available, but not required, might have made a difference.

For example, there are collision warning systems that alert drivers to obstacles in their paths and tell them when they are swerving from their lanes. The agency has also urged the U.S. Transportation Department to require that bus roofs be strengthened so that they aren't sheared off, as happened to the New York bus when it hit a signpost. Also, a Senate bill that was reintroduced this year would require anti-ejection glazing windows to prevent passengers from being easily thrown out of a bus.

"We've looked at all of these issues before," said Chris Hart, the safety board's vice chairman.

It's too early to know whether any of the safety recommendations would have made a difference. But the board has given the Transportation Department failing grades for its slow progress in implementing some recommendations, some of which date back more than a decade.

The bus ran off the road along Interstate 95 in the Bronx as it was returning to New York's Chinatown from an overnight trip to a Connecticut casino. In a similar accident Monday night on I-95, a bus that had left Chinatown for Philadelphia crashed in East Brunswick, N.J., killing the driver and a passenger.

ACROSS THE NATION

Union: 19,000 educators get pink slips in Calif.

SAN BRUNO, Calif. (AP)—California school districts have issued at least 19,000 layoff notices to teachers and other school employees amid heightened uncertainty over the state budget, the teachers union said Tuesday. The California Teachers Association announced its estimate of preliminary notices on the day school districts must let employees know they could lose their jobs. It comes as Gov. Jerry Brown and state lawmakers negotiate over how to close the state's nearly $27 billion budget shortfall. Many districts have not reported how many pink slips they have issued as they prepare for worst-case budget scenarios, said CTA President David Sanchez. He expects the number to surpass 20,000 when the union has a more complete count by week's end.

Ex-nurse to appeal aiding suicides conviction

FARIBAULT, Minn. (AP)—A former nurse accused of seeking out depressed people online and encouraging two to kill themselves was found guilty Tuesday of aiding the suicides of an English man and Canadian woman. William Melchert-Dinkel, 48, was charged in April with two counts of aiding suicide for allegedly advising and encouraging two people to take their own lives. Mark Drybrough, 32, of Coventry, England, hanged himself in 2005, and 18-year-old Nadia Kajouji of Brampton, Ontario, jumped into a frozen river in 2008. Melchert-Dinkel declined a jury trial and left his fate to a judge, who issued his verdict Tuesday.

Md. man pleads not guilty to posing as diplomat

NEW YORK (AP)—A Maryland man is being held in New York on $500,000 bail after being charged with impersonating a diplomat from the Dominican Republic in a fund-raising scam. Francisco Alberto Gautreaux (GOW'-troh) Calcano pleaded not guilty Tuesday to charges including grand larceny. Calcano's lawyer said the 42-year-old had recently been hospitalized after a heart operation. Manhattan prosecutors say Calcano bolstered his phony philanthropy by posing as a Dominican embassy staffer and even as Ambassador Roberto B. Saladin to solicit donations. Prosecutors say the Frederick, Md., man got more than $15,000 by falsely claiming he was raising money to ship fire trucks and other needed vehicles to the Dominican Republic.

Asia

Japan suspends work at stricken nuclear plant

FUKUSHIMA, Japan (AP)—Japan suspended operations to keep its stricken nuclear plant from melting down Wednesday after surging radiation made it too dangerous to stay.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano said the workers dousing the reactors in a frantic effort to cool them needed to withdraw.

"The workers cannot carry out even minimal work at the plant now," Edano said. "Because of the radiation risk we are on standby."

■■■

BEIJING (AP)—Japan's neighbors say they don't foresee their countries having any immediate effects of radiation from Japan's nuclear crisis.

The Russian Emergencies Ministry said Tuesday it had detected no increase in radiation levels. Far eastern Russia, the Korean peninsula and China are Japan's nearest neighbors.

Jae Moo-sung, a nuclear engineering expert at Seoul's Hanyang University, said wind speed and direction would be the most important factors. He said a full meltdown could spread radioactivity to the Korean peninsula.

AP

Tokyo Electric Co. employees in charge of public relations explain the situation of Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear complex during a press conference Wednesday, March 16, 2011 in Tokyo, Japan.

The Xinhua News Agency quoted Chinese meteorologists Wednesday saying rain and snow forecast in northern Japan should help prevent any spread.

Singapore said no abnormal changes in radiation levels have been detected. Fake text messages have claimed acid rain could reach the island more than 3,000 miles (5,000 kilometers) southwest of Japan.

■■■

The nuclear crisis has triggered international alarm and partly overshadowed the human tragedy caused by Friday's earthquake and tsunami, which pulverized Japan's northeastern coastline, killing an estimated 10,000 people and severely damaging the nuclear plant.

Since then, authorities have tried frantically to avert an environmental catastrophe at the Fukushima Dai-ichi complex in northeastern Japan, 140 miles (220 kilometers) north of Tokyo.

Edano said the government expects to ask the U.S. military for help. He did not elaborate. He said the government is still considering whether and how to take up the various offers of help from other countries.

The surge in radiation was apparently the result of a Tuesday fire in the complex's Unit 4 reactor, according to officials with Japan's nuclear safety agency. That blast is thought to have damaged the reactor's suppression chamber, a water-filled pipe outside the nuclear core that is part of the emergency cooling system.

Officials had originally planned use helicopters and fire trucks to spray water in a desperate effort to prevent further radiation leaks and to cool down the reactors.

"It's not so simple that everything will be resolved by pouring in water. We are trying to avoid creating other problems," Edano said.

"We are actually supplying water from the ground, but supplying water from above involves pumping lots of water and that involves risk. We also have to consider the safety of the helicopters above," he said.

A U.S. nuclear expert said he feared the worst.

"It's more of a surrender," said David Lochbaum, a nuclear engineer who now heads the nuclear safety program for the Union of Concerned Scientists, an activist group. "It's not like you wait 10 days and the radiation goes away. In that 10 days things are going to get worse."

"It's basically a sign that there's nothing left to do but throw in the towel," Lochbaum said.

The government has ordered some 140,000 people in the vicinity to stay indoors. A little radiation was also detected in Tokyo, triggering panic buying of food and water.

There are six reactors at the plant, and the three that were operating at the time have been rocked by explosions. The one still on fire was offline at the time of the magnitude 9.0 quake, Japan's most powerful on record.

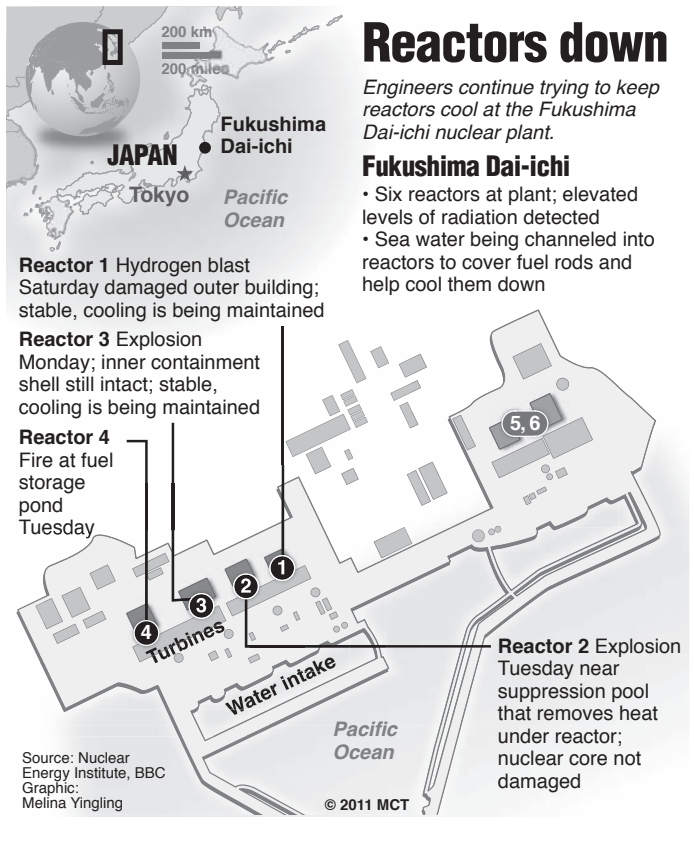
Japan's nuclear safety agency estimated that 70 percent of the rods have been damaged at the No. 1 reactor.

Japan's national news agency, Kyodo, said that 33 percent of the fuel rods at the No. 2 reactor were damaged and that the cores of both reactors were believed to have partially melted.

"We don't know the nature of the damage," said Minoru Ohgoda, spokesman for Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency, or NISA. "It could be either melting, or there might be some holes in them."

Meanwhile, the outer housing of the containment vessel at the No. 4 unit erupted in flames early Wednesday, said Hajimi Motujuku, a spokesman for the plant's operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co.

NISA said fire and smoke could no longer be seen at Unit 4, but that it was unable to confirm that the blaze had been put out.


200 km
200 miles
JAPAN
Fukushima Dai-ichi
Tokyo
Pacific Ocean
Reactors down
Engineers continue trying to keep reactors cool at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant.
Fukushima Dai-ichi
• Six reactors at plant; elevated levels of radiation detected
• Sea water being channeled into reactors to cover fuel rods and help cool them down
Reactor 1 Hydrogen blast Saturday damaged outer building; stable, cooling is being maintained
Reactor 3 Explosion Monday; inner containment shell still intact; stable, cooling is being maintained
Reactor 4 Fire at fuel storage pond Tuesday
5, 6
1
2
3
4
Turbines
Water intake
Pacific Ocean
Reactor 2 Explosion Tuesday near suppression pool that removes heat under reactor; nuclear core not damaged
Source: Nuclear Energy Institute, BBC
Graphic: Melina Yingling
© 2011 MCT

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH tells workers to leave Bahrain

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government is urging thousands of its citizens working in Bahrain to leave amid increasing tensions. Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rafael Seguis said Tuesday that there are 31,000 Filipinos in Bahrain. The tiny nation has been swept in the wave of protests and a Saudi-led military force has been deployed to prop up the monarchy against growing opposition. The Philippines has been evacuating thousands of nationals from countries in the Middle East and North Africa wracked by violent unrest. About 14,000 of 26,000 Filipinos have already fled Libya. About 9 million Filipinos working abroad send home billions of dollars that help shore up the local economy.

Filipino militant linked to airport blast captured

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police have arrested a militant who allegedly was involved in a 2003 airport bombing and belonged to a radical Islamic convert group blacklisted by U.S. authorities for plotting attacks against the American Embassy in Manila, officials said Tuesday. Ricardo Ayeras, a founding member of the Rajah Solaiman Movement, was captured by police intelligence and counterterrorism officials late Monday near a hospital in the capital, national police intelligence chief Manuel Barcena said. Although it has been considerably weakened by a yearslong crackdown, the Rajah Solaiman group is still regarded a key threat by U.S. and Philippine officials.

Indonesian mail bombs target 'sins against Islam'

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—One of three mail bombs sent to Indonesians blamed for "sins against Islam" wounded four people when police detonated it, a new threat coming as religious intolerance rises in the world's most populous Muslim country. The bomb that exploded was addressed to Ulil Abshar Abdalla, the founder of the U.S.-funded Islamic Liberal Network, which has long promoted a tolerant, open form of the faith through radio shows, the Internet, discussion groups and publications. The low-intensity devices delivered Tuesday were placed in a hole carved into a heavy book titled: "They should be killed for their sins against Islam and the Muslims."

Quake response showcases Japan's resilient spirit

TAGAJO, Japan (AP)—Close to the epicenter of Japan's devastating earthquake and tsunami, workers at a warehouse hauled out cans of coffee and soda this week to offer to passers-by for free.

"Help yourself! Take what you need!" they yelled as they put box after box on the sidewalk. Their boss Kazuyoshi Chiba said the phone lines are down, so he can't reach company headquarters, but "I think this is the right thing to do."

With the same mixture of resilience and resignation that has lifted Japan out of previous disasters, many survivors of last Friday's calamity are calmly pitching in to help themselves and others, taking life one day at a time. Four days on, there is little of the public anger and frustration that so often bursts forth in other countries.

The one exception may be near the troubled Fukushima nuclear plant, where fears of radiation leaks are spooking residents and fraying tempers. Elsewhere, survivors search for missing loved ones, clean up their streets and wait patiently for gas—with regret, for sure, but hardly a complaint.

Osamu Hayasaka was among those snapping up the free drinks handed out in Tagajo. "There are a lot of older people near where I live, so I'll give them some of this," the 61-year-old man said, strapping two boxes onto his red bicycle with a bungee cord.

His extended family of six has no power, intermittent water and little food. But, he said, he isn't angry at the government; he understands that officials have other priorities.

Japan is a nation of 127 million people with a long history of disasters, both man-made and natural, from a 1923 earthquake that killed 142,800 in the Tokyo region to the country's doomed entry into World War II, which ended with the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Through these and more recent traumas, including a 1995 earthquake that killed 6,400 in Kobe, the Japanese have endured and rebuilt their country with a usually quiet and uncomplaining resolve. Now, the country's spirit is once again being tested by what its prime minister has called its most severe crisis since the end of the war.

The magnitude-9.0 earthquake and ensuing tsunami killed untold thousands on Japan's northeastern coast and left many more without shelter and electricity and scrambling to find water, fuel and food. Even as rescuers begin to reach them, officials are desperately trying to prevent serious radiation leaks from the Fukushima nuclear reactors, where the disaster knocked out cooling systems.

Amid the chaos, foreign journalists have remarked on the polite demeanor, the lack of anger, the little if any looting or profiteering that seems to characterize disasters elsewhere.

World

Libya bombards rebels, gets closer to stronghold

TOBRUK, Libya (AP)—Moammar Gadhafi's forces overwhelmed rebels in the strategic eastern city of Ajdabiya, hammering them with airstrikes, missiles, tanks and artillery Tuesday in an assault that sent residents fleeing and appeared to open the way for an all-out government offensive on the opposition's main stronghold in the east, Benghazi.

In desperation, rebels sent up two antiquated warplanes that struck a government ship bombarding Ajdabiya from the Mediterranean. But as tanks rolled into the city from two directions and rockets relentlessly pounded houses and shops, the ragtag opposition fighters' defenses appeared to break down.

■■■

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Supporters of a no-fly zone over Libya introduced a U.N. resolution Tuesday aimed at stopping Moammar Gadhafi's planes from bombing civilians, with France urging quick action but Russia and Germany expressing misgivings.

Divisions over a no-fly zone that emerged among top diplomats from the Group of Eight leading economies meeting in Paris earlier Tuesday were already spilling into negotiations in the 15-member U.N. Security Council, which includes many G-8 members.

■■■

Only 10 days ago, the rebellion was poised to march on Tripoli, the capital, and had appeared capable of sweeping Gadhafi out after 41 years in power, but the regime's better armed and organized military has reversed the tide. Efforts led by France and Britain to create a no-fly zone to protect the rebels have gone nowhere, and some rebels lashed out at the West for failing to come to their aid.

"This is a madman, a butcher," one rebel fighter said of Gadhafi, speaking to The Associated Press by telephone from Ajdabiya as explosions were heard in the background. "It's indiscriminate fire."

"The world is sleeping," he said. "They (the West) drunk of Gadhafi's oil and now they won't stand against him. They didn't give us a no-fly zone."

Residents of the city of 140,000 streamed out, fleeing toward Benghazi, 140 miles (200 kilometers) northeast. But warplanes and artillery were striking roads in and out of Ajdabiya, several witnesses and fighters said. Some reported private cars had been hit, but the reports could not be independently confirmed. They spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation from Gadhafi's regime.

Ajdabiya, 480 miles (800 kilometers) southeast of Tripoli, is the gateway to the long stretch of eastern Libya that has been in the control of the opposition since early on in the month-long uprising. With its fall, regime forces would be able to bombard Benghazi, Libya's second largest city and the de facto capital of the opposition, by air, sea and land.

The opposition once had a seemingly unshakable hold on the eastern half of the country and control of several cities in the west. Gadhafi has reclaimed much of that territory, including all but one western city.

Gadhafi warned rebels: "There are only two possibilities: Surrender or run away."

He said he was not like the Tunisian or Egyptian leaders who fell after anti-government protests. "I'm very different from them," he said in an interview with the Italian newspaper Il Giornale. "People are on my side and give me strength."

Late Tuesday, addressing selected supporters in Tripoli, Gadhafi called the rebels "rats" and blasted Western nations. "They want Libyan oil," he said.

During his appearance, a crowd watching on a TV projection on a wall in Benghazi shouted curses and threw shoes at the image, in video broadcast live by Al-Jazeera satellite TV.

As before, Gadhafi played down the scope of the conflict in his country. "They said thousands have died, but only 150 have died," he said.

Libyan state television aired calls for the opposition to stop fighting, apparently hoping to sway populations in the east away from support of the rebels. "Those who are asking you to put down your arms want peace for you, so please help them and stop shedding blood," the broadcaster said. "Libya is for everyone and by everyone. So let God's word be the highest and the word of evil be the lowest."

Europe and the United States, meanwhile, were tossing back and forth the question of whether to impose a no-fly zone that the opposition has pleaded for.

On Tuesday, top diplomats from some of the world's biggest powers deferred to the U.N. Security Council to take action against Libya, as France and Britain failed to win support for a no-fly zone in the face of German opposition and U.S. reluctance. France said the Group of Eight agreed that a new U.N. resolution should be adopted by week's end with measures to help Libyan rebels.

A U.N. resolution introduced Tuesday includes no-fly provisions. It also calls for increased enforcement of an arms embargo and freezing more Libyan assets, according to U.N. diplomats said who spoke on condition of anonymity because the text has not been released. One diplomat said the Security Council will be looking to see whether members of the Arab League, which is pressing for the no-fly zone, are ready to seriously participate in the establishment and operation of a zone.

WORLD BRIEFS

Bahrain king clamps down; 3 dead as unrest spreads

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—Bahrain's king declared a three-month state of emergency Tuesday to quell a Shiite uprising, as clashes spread through the capital and surrounding villages in a showdown that drew in the region's major powers and splintered along its main sectarian faultlines. At least two Bahrainis and a Saudi soldier died, and hundreds of protesters were injured by shotgun blasts and clubs. A force of more than 1,000 Saudi-led troops expanded to defend the Sunni monarchy; Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah denounced the presence of foreign soldiers; and Washington feared for its main naval base in the Gulf. Any compromise appeared distant at best, with the latest order from Bahrain's king and protesters' demands for the royal family to be toppled altogether.

Anti-government tribesmen kill 4 Yemeni soldiers

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—A Yemeni tribal leader was killed Tuesday in confrontations between security forces and protesters demanding the resignation of President Abdullah Saleh, witnesses said They said Sheik Naji Nassem was shot dead by government troops during a demonstration in the northern town of al-Jawf, close to the border with Saudi Arabia. His death Tuesday follows an earlier incident during which anti-government tribesmen stormed a security building and shot dead four soldiers in a revenge attack after government troops opened fire on opposition protesters calling for the president's ouster, witnesses said.

Environment

CELEBRATE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS MONTH

Join the islandwide cleanup

Last year's islandwide cleanup resulted in the removal of more than 12,500 lbs of trash along our roadsides and beaches.

The Division of Environmental Quality invites all interested volunteers to take part in the 2011 Island-Wide Cleanup in celebration of Environmental Awareness Month.

The event will run from 2pm to 4:30pm this Friday, March 18, and from 8am to 11am on Saturday, March 19.

More than 1,300 volunteers from the private and government sectors signed up for last year's event. DEQ encourages community members, government agencies and private companies, private and public schools to work together and take part in this event to protect, preserve, and beautify our island environment.

This is a great opportunity for the whole community to work together and clean-up the Marianas and enrich the beauty of our islands.

The Island-wide Cleanup is one of many events scheduled for Environmental Awareness Month, which is sponsored and coordinated by DEQ in collaboration with various agencies, organizations, and private companies.

Throughout the month of April, these groups will come together to host educational events and programs aimed at protecting, preserving and beautifying our island environment. This year's theme is "Invest in the real green: our environment!" ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Division of Environmental Quality laboratory will be open for field trips throughout the month of April.

Water quality lab to host field trips during April

The Division of Environmental Quality laboratory will be hosting presentations on drinking water sampling and analyses and water quality monitoring throughout the month of April in celebration of Environmental Awareness Month.

All interested school groups may call Abdon Kaipat or Clarissa Bearden to school a laboratory field trip throughout April. To view and download a copy of the tour schedule, please go to www.deq.gov.mp.

The DEQ Laboratory was established by the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to provide monitoring data required under the Safe Drinking Water Act (P.L. 93-253) and other environmental programs. The data generated by the laboratory are used to evaluate the quality of drinking and recreational waters in the Commonwealth. ***(PR)***

Composting workshop set for April 9

Looking to decrease you garbage loads, make all natural and free fertilizer for your garden/farm, or to green up the CNMI?

Then composting is your answer. oin representatives from the Division of Environmental Quality and the National Parks Service for a workshop on April 9 from 9am to 11am that will teach you how to do easy and cheap home composting.

The workshop is free and open to the public, but spots are limited and participants are asked to RSVP to Aric Bickel at 664-8513 by April 6. Coffee and snacks provided. ***(PR)***

Green on the go

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

You've heard all the excuses. "I'm too busy to go green" or "It's too hard to be eco-friendly all the time". Trust me, I'm working mom of two and I know it can be challenging to go green when you're constantly on the go. However, you can Do Your Part with just a little planning and the payoff is certainly worth it!

One place that we usually opt for convenience over sustainability is with our food. Think about all the food related products we casually discard every day—juice boxes, plastic baggies, water bottles, disposable utensils, and so much more. A smarter choice is to invest in reusable containers and utensils. I minimize my investment by purchasing food products packaged in reusable containers that I wash and repurpose. For example, a yogurt cup with a plastic lid is great for snacks and lunches. And reusable beverage containers come in all shapes and sizes including ones shaped like a juice box that won't spill.

Then there's the actual food to consider. There's no reason why anyone has to give up on local and organic foods just because they're too busy to seek them out. Consider joining what's called a CSA. Community Supported Agriculture programs actually allow you to join a local farm and receive a sampling of each season's bounty. Many times, these local farms will deliver the fresh produce right to your door.

At home, there are other ways to make it easy on you while going green. If you install a programmable thermostat, you'll reduce your heating and cooling systems needs during those regular times of day when you're not home. And, rather than trashing reuseable items you no longer want, keep a box in the garage or closet where you can toss these items. Once the box fills up, drop it off at Goodwill where they will refurbish, re-sell, or recycle everything from old clothing to cell phones. This keeps these items out of the landfill and 80 cents or more of every dollar generated goes into job training programs and employment opportunities where you live.

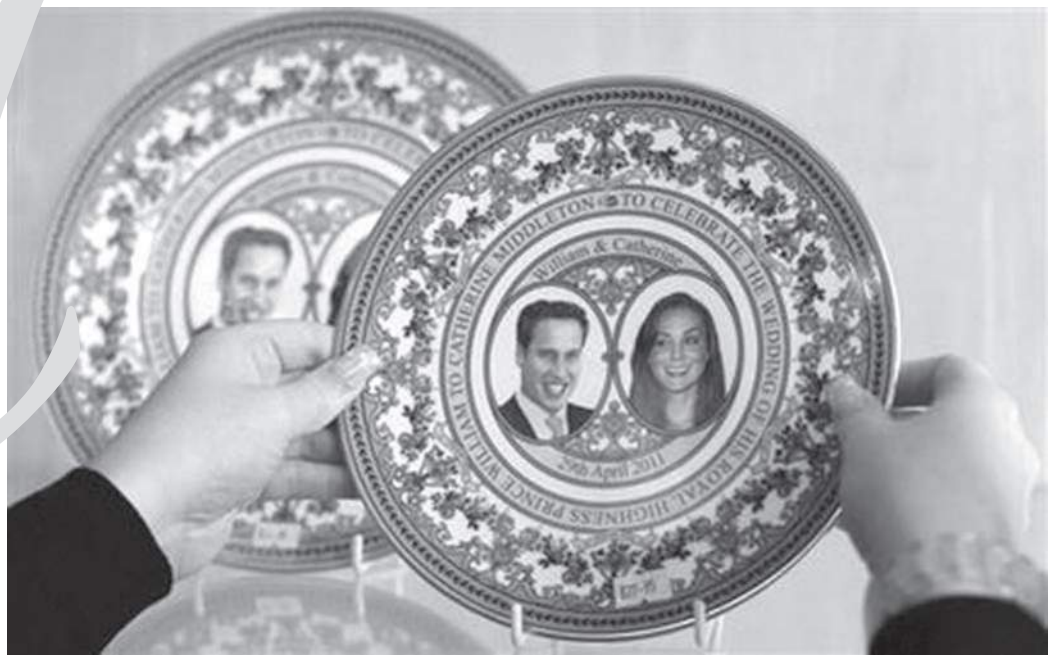
Once you hit the road, remember to keep those reusable bags handy. These days, you can find eco-friendly (and fabulously fashionable!) reusable bag organizers to keep in your car. They hold all different sizes of bags compactly so you'll always have just the right one when you make that unplanned shopping trip. And, want another way to lessen the time you spend in the car? There are many online sites and even phone apps that make it easy to set up carpool plans with other parents or colleagues. They organize the carpool schedule for you and even send out reminders when it's your turn to drive. You'll find a few listed at DoYourPart.com/Columns

Going green doesn't need to be a chore. In fact, when you Do Your Part, you can actually save time and money. Now, who wouldn't want that?

Life & Style

Royal wedding a business boom or drag?

NORTHAMPTON, England (AP)—Surrounded by boxes in a rickety old warehouse above the family shop, Joe Church hurries to wrap plates adorned with the faces of Prince William and his bride Kate Middleton for a customer in Australia.


TO CELEBRATE THE WEDDING OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE WILLIAM TO CATHERINE MIDDLETON
William & Catherine
29th April 2011

AP

In this Wednesday, March 9, 2011 photo, a member of staff adjusts a commemorative plate for the Royal Wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton at Church's china shop in Northampton, England.

The Church's business, a 152-year old china and ornament seller specializing in memorabilia, has plenty of reason to celebrate the upcoming royal nuptials as its cash register chimes with the wedding bells.

"It's good for the royal couple, it's good for everyone in the U.K. and it's certainly good for business," beams Joe's Dad, Stephen Church, in front of a display of goods ranging from heart pillows to lookalike William teddy bears.

But just an hour down the road on a rainy building site outside Cambridge, it's a very different story.

For Dick Searle, the owner of a small eponymous digger rental service, the royal wedding—and an extra public holiday—couldn't come at a worse time. As Britain struggles to pull out of an economic downturn that has crippled the building industry, the last thing Searle needs is to pay his staff for a day with no work and leave expensive equipment idle. "They didn't ask us about it, did they, and we are having it hard," says Searle as his crew lay a new driveway in the drizzle. "Good luck to people selling rubbish plates, but for us it's nothing but bad news."

Prime Minister David Cameron made the day a national holiday to allow everyone in the country an opportunity to celebrate. But the union of the photogenic young couple is proving a boon only for some British businesses—the cold statistics suggest it is actually a drag on the rest of the economy.

Analysts predict the April 29 wedding will provide a boost of up to 1 billion pounds ($1.6 billion) to the economy, largely through retail sales, hotel room bookings and the hospitality trade.

But each public holiday also typically costs the economy 6 billion pounds in lost productivity—leaving a 5 billion pound shortfall at a time when fears of a double-dip recession weigh heavily.

The Federation of Small Businesses, a leading lobby group in a country where the average business employs just four workers, is worried about the timing of the wedding. A public holiday to celebrate the event so soon after the Easter break increases the chances of many workers taking extra vacation time—or a few unauthorized sick days—to extend their time off.

Tour companies have reported gleefully that bookings are up from Good Friday until the Monday after the wedding—an 11-day block that makes it possible to go for a trip, say, to the Caribbean.

But giving workers extended leave is an unappealing prospect for many small businesses at a time of rising unemployment, surging inflation and harsh government spending cuts.

"It will be a difficult time for a lot of small businesses that had been looking for improvement at Easter," says Andrew Cave, the FSB's chief spokesman.

Still, supporters of the nuptials, are hoping that the feel-good factor generated by an extra day off will be worth the inconvenience and lost economic revenue in the longer-run.

"I think it's more about consumer sentiment," says Chris Simpson, marketing director at online shopping comparison site Kelkoo. "England as a country gets behind big events."

"At a time when the headlines seem to be dominated by bad news, the nation is rightly seizing the opportunity to celebrate something positive."

Cameron made the event a public holiday to ensure "that most people will have a chance to celebrate on the day." The hope is that the feel-good factor of an extra day off at a bleak time will offset any hits to the economy. In defense of the one-off holiday, his office noted businesses tied to leisure—like hotels and pubs—should do well.

National holidays were declared to mark the wedding of both Charles and Diana in 1981 and Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee in 2002. One is also planned for the queen's Diamond Jubilee next year.

The pressure group Republic, which campaigns for an elected head of state, said it was "absurd that the whole country gets a day off for something most people are not interested in."

"At least 20 percent of the population are opposed to the monarchy, many more simply don't care about it," said spokesman Graham Smith.

Among the clear winners are retailers, led by grocers who are banking on a boost to champagne and food sales over the weekend as people celebrate at home or at street parties, and sellers of wedding merchandise like Church's. More general retailers are also expected to see a small uptick as many people hit the shops on their extra day off.

In research for Kelkoo, the Center for Retail Research forecast the wedding to provide a 530 million pound ($856 million) boost to British retailers as around 4 million locals join the celebration in some way.

Many retailers have been quick to spot the opportunity in the biggest royal event since William's dad Charles married Diana in 1981.

Within hours of the couple's engagement announcement on Nov. 16, Wal-Mart Inc.-owned Asda supermarket was selling 5 pound commemorative mugs and Tesco PLC, the biggest retailer in the country, was sewing up versions of Middleton's royal blue engagement dress.

You can buy anything from tea towels to bargain-basement versions of Middleton's sapphire and diamond ring—famously first worn by Diana.

The New West End Company, which represents 600 retailers in central London, expects an extra 500,000 tourists over the royal wedding weekend to add some 50 million pounds in both retail and accommodation. Many hotels in the capital are fully booked, leading enterprising Londoners to offer private rooms for rent, with some charging as much as 2,000 pounds ($3,200) for the week.

VisitBritain, the main inbound tourism association, launched a new "Royal Britain" website last week to cash in on the wedding, giving potential visitors tips about where to go, what to see and what to buy.

There's also plenty of interest—and cash—coming in from people overseas who can't make it here for the first royal event of the internet era.

Garland's daughter sings for Mom at Carnegie Hall

NEW YORK (AP)—"Lorna likes the loud ones," her mom, Judy Garland, used to say.

She still does. Lorna Luft came to Carnegie Hall over the weekend to belt out some "loud ones" in honor of her late mother, marking the 50th anniversary of Garland's famous April 23, 1961 concert there - a night many fans consider positively legendary.

Luft, who was in the original cast of "Promises, Promises" and still sounds uncannily like her mother at moments, joined three other accomplished Broadway singers in recreating the great concert, song by song. Conductor Steven Reineke and the New York Pops kept scrupulously true to the original arrangements and keys of each number.

Garland's original performance, during which fans jammed the aisles and even rushed the stage, was recorded and received a fistful of Grammy Awards, including album of the year. She was 38, and had recently recovered from a devastating case of hepatitis, giving the night the aura of a big comeback.

The singers at the weekend event included Ashley Brown, Broadway's original (and current again) Mary Poppins; Heather Headley, of "Aida" and "The Lion King"; and Karen Olivo, of "In the Heights" and "West Side Story."

They tackled such Garland classics as "The Trolley Song," "Get Happy," and "Chicago (That Toddling Town)." Headley delivered a scorching "Stormy Weather," Olivo shone on "Zing! Went the Strings of My Heart," and Brown drew cheers for a gorgeously sung "Over the Rainbow," the young Garland's signature song, of course, from "The Wizard of Oz."

As for Luft, she belted out "The Man That Got Away" and "Come Rain or Come Shine," then got a standing ovation for "Rock-a-Bye Your Baby (With a Dixie Melody)" - the song, she joked, that Mom always sang to satisfy Lorna's penchant for "the loud ones." (Garland's older daughter, Liza Minnelli, who turned 65 over the weekend, was not at the show.)

Luft and Minnelli both had been at the 1961 concert, along with Garland's youngest child, son Joey Luft, not to mention actor Rock Hudson and a myriad of other celebrities.

"My mother came on this stage and turned this hall upside down, and I was there," Luft, now 58, told the crowd. Referring to the fan mania surrounding her mom that night, she added: "I had never seen grown-ups acting that way in my life."

Garland died eight years later, in 1969, of a drug overdose. She was 47.

AP

This 1961 photo courtesy of Carnegie Hall shows Judy Garland during a performance at Carnegie Hall in New York.

Celebration to feature virtual Elvis concert

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Elvis Week this year will include the traditional candlelight vigil remembering Elvis Presley's death and a concert featuring a virtual image of the rock icon.

Elvis Week draws thousands of fans every year to Graceland, Elvis' longtime home in Memphis, for a celebration of his life and death.

The festivities are set for Aug. 10-16.

This year's Elvis Week is highlighted by a concert with a live band and real backup singers performing in front on a large LED-screen with a virtual Elvis belting out tunes.

Events also include the finals for the tribute artist contest; a documentary about Sam Phillips, who discovered Elvis; and the vigil at Elvis' grave at Graceland.

It's been 55 years since Elvis' first national hit, "Heartbreak Hotel." He died Aug. 16, 1977.

Sundance Film Festival comes to London

LONDON (AP)—Robert Redford says he is planning to launch a four-day version of the Sundance Film Festival in London.

The Academy Award-winning actor, director and producer said Tuesday that Sundance London will "bring a particular slice of American culture to life" in the capital and present films from American filmmakers as well as current American music.

Sundance London will feature film screenings, live music performances, discussions and panels.

The festival will be held from April 26 to April 29, 2012, at the O2 arena, which is owned by AEG Europe.

Redford, who rose to fame in films including "The Sting" and "Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Kid," founded the annual Sundance Film Festival in Utah to promote independent filmmaking.

Dion returns to recession-hit Vegas with new show

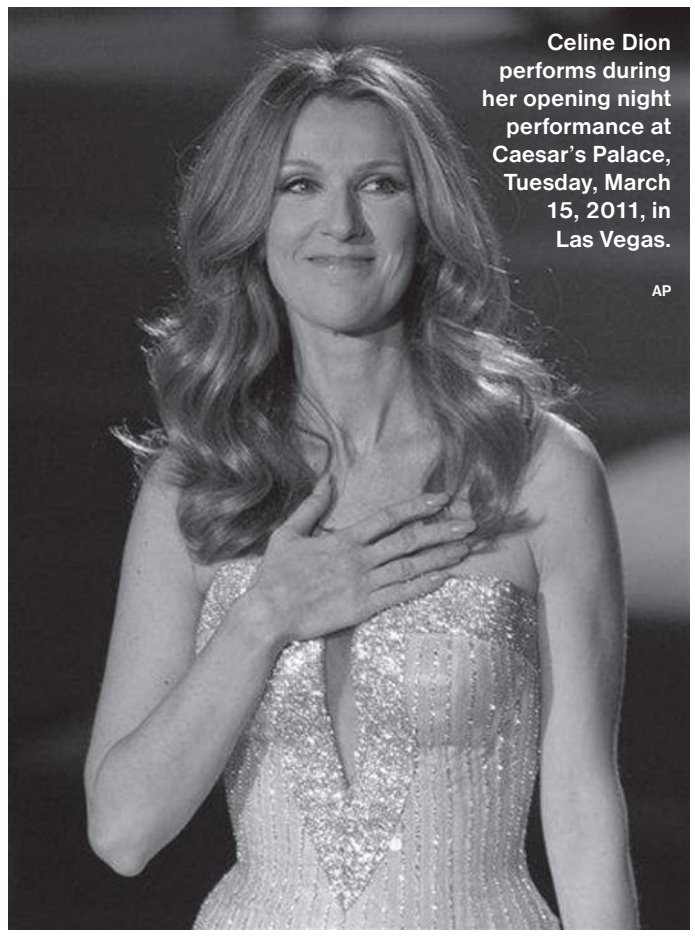
LAS VEGAS (AP)—Celine Dion has returned to the Las Vegas stage in a parade of sparkly dresses with thigh-hit slits, a stage full of trumpeters, violinists and drummers, and a special appearance by Steve Wonder.

The French-Canadian crooner sang the romantic opuses that made her an international star, including "My Heart Will Go On" and "It's All Coming Back to Me Now," in her encore performance Tuesday at the Colosseum at Caesars Palace. She also shared a duet with Wonder to his "Overjoyed."

The three-year production is a stripped-down tribute to old Hollywood.

Dion's five-year stint at Caesars from 2003 to 2007 saw Cirque du Soleil-style dancers and Dion harnessed to a cable and flown in the air.

"A New Day" grossed more than $400 million over five years.



Celine Dion performs during her opening night performance at Caesar's Palace, Tuesday, March 15, 2011, in Las Vegas.

AP

Reggae artist Smiley Culture dies in Britain

Photo dated April 27 1987 of reggae star Smiley Culture. British media are reporting Tuesday March 15 2011, reggae star Smiley Culture has died during a police drugs raid on his home.

AP

LONDON (AP)—British media are reporting reggae star Smiley Culture has died during a police drugs raid on his home.

The London-born musician—whose real name is David Emmanuel—reportedly died from self-inflicted wounds Tuesday when police officers swooped on his home in east Surrey, according to Britain's Press Association.

The reggae singer had appeared before magistrates in September last year charged with conspiracy to supply cocaine.

Britain's police watchdog said Tuesday it had been called in to investigate an incident during which a 48-year-old man apparently suffered a stab wound and died. The watchdog said formal identification has not yet taken place.

Culture shot to fame in the 1980s with hits including "Cockney Translation" and "Police Officer."

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Battle: Los Angeles
Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:30
Aaron Eckhart, Michelle Rodriguez
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
A platoon of Marines take on an alien invasion throughout Los Angeles in this Original Films sci-fi action picture, headed by director Jonathan Liebesman (Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning) and producer Neal H. Moritz. The Dark Knight's Aaron Eckhart stars in the produciton.

Red Riding Hood
Friday 4:15 7:15 10:00
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15
Amanda Sayfried, Gary Oldman
Horror • Rated PG 13

Mars Needs Moms
Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20
Seth Green, Joan Cusack
Science Fiction • Rated PG

★ ★ ★

Rango
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Johnny Depp, Isla Fisher
Children's/Family • Rated G

Synopsis
Helmer Gore Verbinksi (Pirates of the Caribbean) directs this family-oriented animated adventure starring the voice of Johnny Depp as a family pet who leaves the comfort of home in order to explore the outside world. John Logan (The Aviator) provides the script for the Paramount Pictures production. Abigail Breslin, Isla Fisher, Alfred Molina, Ray Winstone, Harry Dean Stanton, and Ned Beatty provide the voices for the rest of the cast.

The Adjustment Bureau
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:10
Matt Damon, Emily Blunt
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

I Am Number Four
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:35
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:25
Alex Pettyfer, Timothy Olyphant
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Take Me Home Tonight
Friday 7:05
Saturday 1:05 7:05
Sunday 1:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 7:05
Ana Faris, Topher Grace
Comedy Drama • Rated R

Unknown
Friday 4:05 9:45
Saturday 4:05 9:45
Sunday 4:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05
Liam Neeson, Diane Kruger
Thriller • Rated PG 13

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Rerun season hurts CBS; Fox's 'Idol' dominates

Nielsen's top 20 TV programs last week

NEW YORK (AP)—Prime-time viewership numbers compiled by the Nielsen Co. for March 7-13. Listings include the week's ranking and viewership.

1. **"American Idol"** (Wednesday), Fox, 24.4 million.
2. **"American Idol"** (Thursday), Fox, 22.05 million.
3. **"The Mentalist,"** CBS, 14.28 million.
4. **"NCIS: Los Angeles,"** CBS, 13.45 million.
5. **"CSI: Crime Scene Investigation,"** CBS, 13.39 million.
6. **"NCIS,"** CBS, 13.35 million.
7. **"The Big Bang Theory,"** CBS, 12.06 million.
8. **"Glee,"** Fox, 11.92 million.
9. **"CSI: Miami,"** CBS, 11.85 million.
10. **"Undercover Boss,"** CBS, 11.78 million.
11. **"Blue Bloods,"** CBS, 11.6 million.
12. **"Secret Millionaire,"** ABC, 11.43 million.
13. **"House,"** Fox, 11.08 million.
14. **"Survivor: Redemption Island,"** CBS, 10.96 million.
15. **"CSI: NY,"** CBS, 10.6 million.
16. **"Bones,"** Fox, 10.49 million.
17. **"60 Minutes,"** CBS, 10.46 million.
18. **"Two and a Half Men,"** CBS, 10.18 million.
19. **"The Bachelor,"** ABC, 10.02 million.
20. **"Harry's Law,"** NBC, 9.59 million.

NEW YORK (AP)—The March rerun season probably cost CBS a victory in the weekly ratings race.

What's that? Reruns in March? In order to stretch a limited number of original episodes across a September-to-May season, networks need to find a few pockets to stick in reruns.

The holiday season is one. Last week was another, as reruns dominated the schedule. Television's most popular scripted show, CBS' "NCIS," had 13.4 million viewers last week, the Nielsen Co. said. With originals the previous three weeks, "NCIS" topped 19 million viewers each time, once reaching 21.3 million.

That means Fox's two "American Idol" episodes dominated the landscape even more than usual. The loss of Simon Cowell has hardly proved fatal for the talent show; its ratings with new judges Jennifer Lopez and Steven Tyler are holding up well.

Fox (an average of 9.79 million viewers last week) and CBS (9.76 million) were essentially in a dead heat last week. CBS had a 6.0 rating and a 10 audience share, while Fox landed a 5.6 rating and a 9 share. ABC had 5.4 million viewers (3.4, 6), NBC had 5.2 million (3.3, 6), ION Television had 1.3 million (0.9, 2) and the CW had 1.1 million (0.7, 1)

Among the Spanish-language networks, Univision led the way by averaging 3.9 million viewers (2.0 rating, 3 share), Telemundo had 1.3 million (0.6, 1), TeleFutura had 770,000 (0.4, 1), Azteca had 230,000 and Estrella 160,000 (both 0.1, 0).

NBC's "Nightly News" topped the evening newscasts with an average of 9.6 million viewers (6.2, 12). ABC's "World News" was second with 8.3 million (5.6, 11) and the "CBS Evening News" had 6.2 million viewers (4.1, 8).

A ratings point represents 1,159,000 households, or 1 percent of the nation's estimated 115.9 million TV homes. The share is the percentage of in-use televisions tuned to a given show. For the week of March 7-13, the top 10 shows, their networks and viewerships: "American Idol" (Wednesday), Fox, 24.4 million; "American Idol" (Thursday), Fox, 22.05 million; "The Mentalist," CBS, 14.2 million; "NCIS: Los Angeles," CBS, 13.45 million; "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," CBS, 13.39 million; "NCIS," CBS, 13.35 million; "The Big Bang Theory," CBS, 12.06 million; "Glee," Fox, 11.92 million; "CSI: Miami," CBS, 11.85 million; "Undercover Boss," CBS, 11.78 million.

Calif. medical board reprimands Jackson doctor

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The doctor charged with involuntary manslaughter in Michael Jackson's death has received a public letter of reprimand from the Medical Board of California acknowledging actions taken against him in Nevada over child support.

California board spokeswoman Jennifer Simoes said such letters are routine to notify the public of an action against a doctor's license in another state.

The Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners reprimanded Dr. Conrad Murray in December for failing to disclose on his 2007 and 2009 license renewal applications that he was behind on child support payments in California.

Murray continues to practice in Nevada, but his California medical license is suspended pending his criminal trial.

Murray has pleaded not guilty. His lawyer, Edward Chernoff, said he was unaware of the new reprimand letter and declined comment.

Elizabeth Taylor enters 2nd month in LA hospital

AP

In this Sept. 27, 2007 file photo, actress Elizabeth Taylor is shown at the Macy's Passport 2007 charity benefit in Santa Monica, Calif.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Elizabeth Taylor has entered her second month at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where she is being treated for symptoms of congestive heart failure.

Publicist Sally Morrison said Tuesday that the 79-year-old actress is in stable condition. Taylor is continuing to receive treatment and be monitored at the Los Angeles hospital, where she was admitted in early February, Morrison said Tuesday.

Taylor announced her congestive heart failure diagnosis in 2004.

The Oscar-winning actress has received friends in her hospital room, where she also watched the Academy Awards to celebrate her birthday last month.

Charlie Sheen expands live tour to 5 more cities

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Charlie Sheen is bringing his live show to five more venues, including New York's famed Radio City Music Hall.

Sheen is adding five dates to his "Violent Torpedo of Truth" tour. Tickets go on sale Thursday for performances in Ohio, Connecticut, Boston and New York City.

The actor's shows in Detroit and Chicago on April 2 and 3 sold out quickly. Additional performances are scheduled for April 5 in Cleveland, April 6 in Columbus, Ohio, and April 8 at Radio City Music Hall. He will also perform at the Oakdale Theater in Wallingford, Conn., and at Boston's Agganis Arena on April 12.

Sheen was fired last week from the hit CBS show "Two and a Half Men." He then sued the show's producers for $100 million for breach of contract.

AP

In this Jan. 28, 2009 file photo, actor Charlie Sheen is interviewed at an event to celebrate Planet Hollywood's purchase of Italian restaurant chain Buca di Beppo, at Universal CityWalk in Los Angeles.

TV on the Radio bassist has lung cancer

NEW YORK (AP)—TV on the Radio bassist Gerard Smith has been diagnosed with lung cancer.

The group made the announcement on its website Tuesday. The group says Smith is in treatment and won't be able to join its tour, which begins in Austin, Texas, at South by Southwest on Thursday.

But the group noted that he has health insurance, great medical care and has already seen "dramatic results." TV on the Radio says that with Smith's "legendarily willful disposition ... it might just be cancer that has the problem."

The critically acclaimed rock group just finished its latest album, "Nine Types of Light," which is out April 12.

AP

In this Sept. 12, 2006 file photo, music group TV on the Radio is photographed in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn in New York. From left, Tunde Adebimpe, Gerard Smith, David Sitek, Kyp Malone and Jaleel Bunton.

Husband says Zsa Zsa Gabor staying in bed at home

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Blood flow to Zsa Zsa Gabor's left leg has improved since she was released from a hospital earlier this month, a publicist said Tuesday.

Doctors have been using medications to treat the 94-year-old actress at home after she declined to have the leg amputated when blood flow suddenly stopped, publicist John Blanchette said.

"We don't expect her to get better," said Gabor's husband, Frederic Prinz von Anhalt. "She will be in bed for the rest of her life."

Gabor has been receiving nutrition through a feeding tube and doesn't want any additional surgeries, he said.

Most of Gabor's right leg was amputated in January because of gangrene.

Gabor has been hospitalized repeatedly since July, when she broke her hip in a fall from bed.

She appeared in films ranging from "Moulin Rouge" in 1952 to "Queen of Outer Space" in 1958. She also appeared on TV specials and game shows, and guest-starred on various TV series, often playing herself.

James Taylor breaks leg while skiing in Utah

BOSTON (AP)—James Taylor has broken his leg and injured his shoulder during a ski vacation with his family in Utah.

In an e-mail, an assistant for the Grammy-winning singer-songwriter confirms a report in Tuesday's Boston Globe that Taylor fractured his leg Monday on the first day of the vacation in Utah. The e-mail released no further details.

The report says Taylor had doctors fashion a splint that would allow him to keep skiing.

Taylor was among 20 artists, scholars and writers honored by President Barack Obama at the White House earlier this month in a salute to the arts and humanities.

Dad's old-fashioned attitudes derail daughter's travel plans

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 17-year-old senior in high school. My boyfriend, "Kenny," is 18 and goes to college five hours away. I'd like to visit him over the weekend sometime, but I need my parents' permission. Mom is OK with it, as long as I take the train (she doesn't want me driving that distance alone) and I pay for it. Dad is old-fashioned. He dislikes the fact that Kenny and I would be unsupervised in his dorm for a whole weekend, even though Kenny has a roommate.

We've been together for a long time and have been unsupervised before, but Dad's still uneasy. He treats me like I'm younger than my age. I'm almost 18 and have traveled alone by plane. I'm respectful to my parents and feel I deserve Dad's trust.

Kenny and I love each other, but having a long-distance relationship is difficult since we hardly get to see each other. Dad likes and approves of Kenny, but thinks it's "unnecessary" for me to visit him since we call, Skype and text each other often. How can I get my father to see my point of view?

GROWN-UP GIRL IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEAR GROWN-UP GIRL: You probably can't—but your mother may be able to, which is why you should enlist her help in talking to your father for you. However, if that doesn't work, the alternative would be for Kenny to travel to visit you when he's able to get away for a weekend.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Dan," and I have been married for a year, but we dated for six years. He has been pressuring me to get pregnant.

I'm not ready to be a mom. I work and go to school. Every time we talk about having a baby, Dan becomes irate and yells that he'll divorce me for being selfish. I can never get my point across when I talk to him. I considered getting pregnant so he will shut up and leave me alone. I am so unhappy. He always puts his needs before mine.

I realize that married couples make sacrifices, but Dan isn't willing to. We have issues to work on, but he has made it clear that he isn't going to change. It's his way or the highway.

I still love Dan and would hate to fail as a wife, but what can I do? I knew Dan could be controlling, but I thought things would be better after we were married. I just turned 26 and I'm learning more about life. I can see that this was never a healthy relationship. But I have invested seven years of my life with this man. Please help!

STANDING AROUND IN NEWARK, N.J.

DEAR STANDING AROUND: Staying married to someone because you have invested seven years is a poor reason to stay married. Seven more years and a baby (or more) will not improve your husband's controlling nature. If you think "my way or the highway" seems difficult now, imagine yourself on the highway with a child or two in tow.

You have serious decisions to make about your future. I agree that the relationship you have described is not healthy. How much more time do you plan to invest? Unless your husband realizes he needs help, he won't change. Please talk to a licensed counselor. You need more help than anyone can offer in an advice column.

■■■

TO MY IRISH READERS: A very happy St. Patrick's Day to you all.—LOVE, ABBY

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I'M NOT GOING TO SCHOOL TODAY.
OH, YOU'RE NOT?
NOPE! I'M STAYING HOME AND WATCHING TELEVISION ALL DAY!
APPARENTLY I WAS MISINFORMED.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

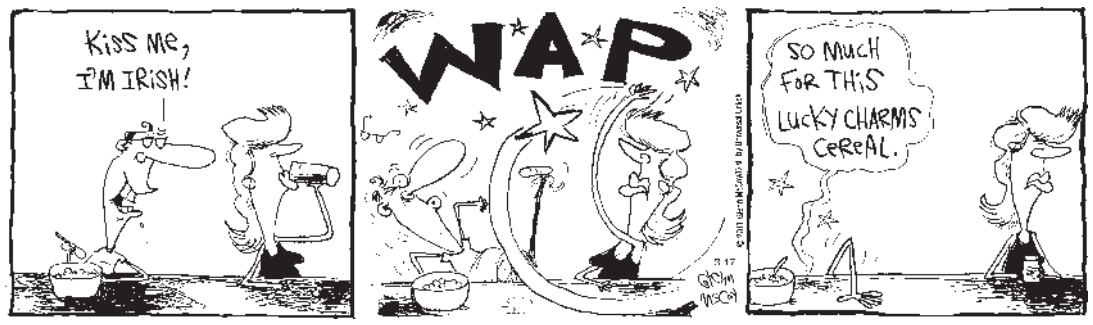
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

THIS IS EXCITING. WHERE SHOULD WE GO ON OUR COUPLE'S WEEKEND?
SKIING?
TOO SNOWY.
BEACH?
TOO SANDY... AND MY FAIR SKIN...
HMM. NO SAND, NO SUN, NO SNOW.
I'VE GOT IT.
ME TOO. THE GARAGE!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

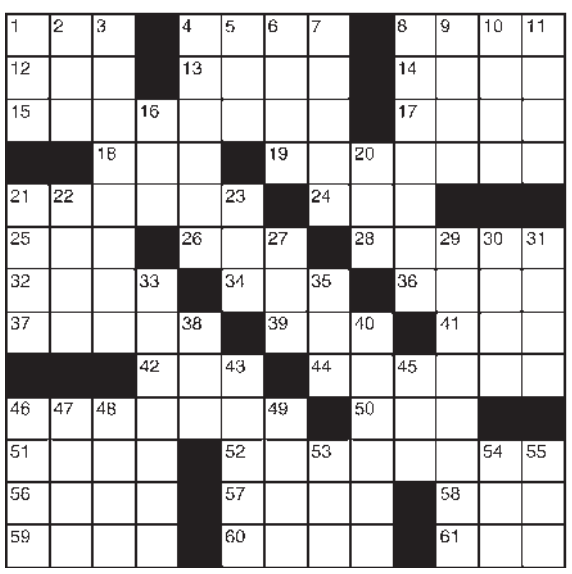
ACROSS
1 Existed
4 Homeless child
8 "That was close!"
12 Candle count
13 Frizzy hairdo
14 Frost
15 Affectionate
17 Satan's specialty
18 Illustrations
19 Corrupt
21 Savings overseer
24 — generis
25 Trench
26 Flop
28 New York town named for a former senator
32 Saharan
34 Unruly crowd
36 "— Only Just Begun"
37 Mother-of-pearl
39 Bankroll
41 Lair
42 Eggs
44 Slow down
46 Carnauba plant
50 Opposed to
51 "Sesame Street" favorite
52 Huge
56 Suitor
57 West Point team
58 Gilbert & Sullivan princess
59 Unsurpassable
60 Chows down
61 Police officer

DOWN
1 Kids' card game
2 Past
3 Relating to meanings of words
4 Desired
5 Sternward
6 Rainbow
7 Concentrate (on)
8 Early show
9 Apiary structure
10 Eastern potentate
11 Reminder of a whipping
16 Noah's craft
20 Crony
21 Cereal choice
22 Emanation
23 Pirates' quaff
27 Part of DJIA
29 Showing off one's learning
30 Always
31 Make one's way
33 GED candidate
35 Prevent
38 Actress Longoria
40 Rots
43 Aquarium buildup
45 Heavy weight
46 Jimmy who wrote "MacArthur Park"
47 Sheltered
48 Yuletide
49 Actress Sorvino
53 Prime meridian hrs.
54 Altar affirmative
55 Upper limit

Solution time: 25 mins.

Z	I	P	■	S	A	V	E	■	K	A	I	O
O	R	F	■	U	N	I	X	■	I	M	I	N
O	A	R	■	C	A	M	P	A	N	I	L	E
S	Q	U	A	T	■	■	O	D	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	P	I	E	S	■	O	L	D	E	R
C	A	M	B	O	D	I	A	■	Y	E	T	I
A	L	I	■	N	U	L	L	S	■	L	A	P
L	A	N	E	■	C	A	M	O	M	I	L	E
F	R	I	A	R	■	S	A	N	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	T	A	T	■	■	A	W	A	I	T
C	A	M	E	M	B	E	R	T	■	W	O	E
O	D	O	R	■	A	R	I	A	■	A	W	E
D	D	A	Y	■	R	A	G	S	■	Y	A	M

Yesterday's answer 3-17



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mia Hamm, 39; Rob Lowe, 47; Gary Sinise, 56; Kurt Russell, 60

Happy Birthday: Emotional confusion will set in if you ignore what's going on in your personal or financial life. Spending on something you don't need will be your downfall this year. Tighten your budget and you will be able to get along better with your peers and family. Equal time for your personal and professional lives will lead to overall success. Your numbers are 9, 12, 15, 23, 32, 37, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't let uncertainty stand in the way. Make decisions that will help get you back on track financially. When you let your emotions stand in your way, you lose sight of the possibilities. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Keep your thoughts to yourself and your plans undercover. The less people know about what you are up to, the easier it will be to get things done. Only when you have reached your goals should you share your accomplishments. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You can build good friendships if you get involved in an event that combines socializing within the industry where you work. Someone you have worked with in the past can help you advance now. Romance can lead to a serious commitment. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Rely on friends and family to give you a helping hand professionally and personally. Combining what you do well or enjoy doing with a service that is in demand will help you gain financial ground and stabilize your future. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't be tricked into spending on something you shouldn't. Partnering with someone who can contribute equally will enable you to do more for less. Cut costs and you will find a way to increase your income and lower your stress. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't be afraid to use a little pressure when dealing with friends, lovers or children if it will help get your point across. Keeping home improvement projects under budget will contribute to your emotional well-being. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You can expect someone to use emotional blackmail if you are not willing to give into the demands being made. Distance yourself to avoid an unsavory situation. Concentrate on projects that can help you get ahead personally and professionally. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Hooking up with someone who's equally creative will lead to an interesting partnership that can turn into a viable sideline business. It's time to gather up all you have learned and experienced into a serviceable, lucrative package. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Put your best foot forward when it comes to home and family. The changes you make will add to your comfort and will bring your family closer together. Plan your next vacation or sign up for an interest course. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): If you stray too far from home or engage in events or activities that involve unfamiliar places or people, you will face a negative response that can lead to unexpected alterations in your plans. Added responsibilities will set you back. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Spend more time with the people you enjoy most. An old friend will surprise you. A job offer is apparent, so apply for a position or set up an interview with a placement company. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You have to be honest with yourself about your past and present situation if you are going to make positive changes in the future. Don't put the blame on others. It's time to do a little soul-searching so you can move forward without unwanted baggage. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have a vivid imagination and are a visionary with the potential to turn ideas into reality. You have a deep desire to explore.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5			4			7	
9			1		2			8
		7				9		
7	3		7		4		8	1
	8		3		9		6	
		1				3		
4			8		7			5
	7			9			4	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	3	5	7	2	4	9	1	6
7	2	9	6	1	8	3	5	4
1	6	4	9	3	5	7	2	8
9	7	8	5	6	1	4	3	2
5	1	3	4	8	2	6	9	7
2	4	6	3	7	9	1	8	5
6	9	2	8	4	3	5	7	1
4	5	1	2	9	7	8	6	3
3	8	7	1	5	6	2	4	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/16

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

NATIONAL ANTHEM DAY **Solution: 8 letters**

L	P	A	T	R	I	O	T	I	C	B	R	A	V	E
H	A	E	P	E	R	I	L	O	U	S	A	I	P	S
O	A	N	A	C	R	E	O	N	T	I	C	H	R	T
M	T	I	O	C	Y	E	K	A	E	T	D	P	O	R
E	R	M	L	I	E	E	N	S	O	E	(F)	M	U	O
A	A	R	G	E	T	D	I	R	L	F	(L)	U	D	P
S	E	B	A	N	D	A	Y	G	L	I	(A)	I	T	S
S	H	I	M	C	R	R	N	L	D	L	(G)	R	W	I
E	T	R	E	P	R	A	A	Y	Y	N	U	T	O	C
M	G	E	S	O	P	B	E	R	I	S	A	A	N	N
B	N	N	W	S	E	A	I	T	T	E	N	L	D	A
L	E	N	R	S	R	C	Y	N	W	A	V	E	E	R
I	R	A	A	S	S	A	L	U	T	E	E	E	R	F
E	T	B	L	L	A	B	T	O	O	F	S	I	N	G
S	S	N	E	Z	I	T	I	C	O	N	C	E	R	T

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Anacreontic, Assemblies, Band, Banner, Baseball, Brave, Citizens, Concert, Country, Dignity, Event, Flag, Football, Francis, Free, Games, Hailed, Heart, Home, Key, Land, Life, Lyrics, National, Patriotic, Peace, Perilous, Praise, Proud, Salute, Sing, Sports, Stand, Star-Spangled, Strength, Triumph, Trust, Victory, Wave, Wonder, Worry, Years

Yesterday's Answer: Patterns

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NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 7, 2011 * TIME: 10:00 AM
NMHC RFP 2011-002

"ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE DIVISION OF THE TINIAN FIRE STATION"

Proposal packets will be available on March 18, 2011, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Twenty-Five Dollars ($25.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A **mandatory pre-proposal conference** will be held at **1:00 p.m.** on **Friday, March 25, 2011,** at the NMHC Tinian Field Office in San Jose, Tinian.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

/s/ **Marcie M. Tomokane**
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ **Herman S. Sablan, Director**
Division of Procurement & Supply

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
INVITATION FOR BID
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 14, 2011 * TIME: 10:00 AM
NMHC IFB 2011-003

"PURCHASING OF FIRE PROTECTION & LIFE SAVING EQUIPMENTS FOR THE DIVISION OF THE TINIAN FIRE STATION"

Proposal packets will be available on March 21, 2011, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Twenty-Five Dollars ($25.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m.** on **March 25, 2011,** at the NMHC Tinian Field Office, Songsong Village, Tinian.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

/s/ **Marcie M. Tomokane**
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ **Herman S. Sablan, Director**
Division of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
HUMAN RESOURCES

Job Vacancy Announcement
Job Vacancy No. 11-020

Opening Date: Friday, 03/04/11 Closing Date: Friday, 03/18/11

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
(CASHIER & CUSTOMER SERVICE)

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows: Responsible for performing entry level, fiscal support and related customer service activities. Performs a wide variety of routine fiscal support activities to include: receiving and processing payments; issuing receipts; preparing daily deposit slips; opening new accounts; closing credit cards; verifying and processing payroll; running automatic credit card payments; posting invoices; preparing checks; preparing refunds; and, preparing charge vouchers. Generates and distributes routine reports. Maintains filing systems. Performs customer service activities to include assisting customers with applications, payments and in settling disputes. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Tinian

SALARY: $11,036.00 - $12,263.00 per annum

POSITIONS: Two.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High School Diploma, or G.E.D., plus zero to three years of related customer service or bookkeeping experience. Knowledge of: Basic bookkeeping principles; Office procedures, methods, and equipment; Keyboarding techniques; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Cash handling and bank deposit procedures. Skill in: Providing customer service; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Keyboarding; Using standard office equipment; Tabulating, recording, and balancing transactions; Preparing routine reports; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Applications may be picked up at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office. Failure to provide required documents listed on the application will be grounds for disqualification.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
HUMAN RESOURCES

Job Vacancy Announcement
Job Vacancy No. 11-021

Opening Date: Friday, 03/04/11 Closing Date: Friday, 03/18/11

TRADES ASSISTANT
(WATER & METERING)

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows: Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in service area assigned. Performs preventative maintenance on equipment in service area assigned. Assists with various construction related duties in service area assigned. Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies. Cleans up, gathers and puts away equipment, materials and supplies for activities/projects. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. Assisting in operating water main valves; Assisting in routing wells; Taking reservoir level and water level readings; Checking on customer complaints by checking for disconnects or leakage; Bleeding fire hydrants; Assisting in checking for leaks in water lines; Assisting in repairing water lines; Assisting in monitoring chlorine gas in the water system; Assisting in maintaining and repairing motors, pumps and other related equipment; Gathering water samples; Assisting in installing and/or replacing water meters; Operating and maintaining water plant facilities; Checking and maintaining vehicles; Inventorying materials and supplies. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Tinian

SALARY: $11,775.00 - $13,631.00 per annum

POSITIONS: Two.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High School Diploma, or G.E.D Knowledge of: Basic preventative maintenance principles; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Performing preventative maintenance; Performing basic maintenance; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a valid CNMI Driver's License. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Applications may be picked up at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office. Failure to provide required documents listed on the application will be grounds for disqualification.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
HUMAN RESOURCES

Job Vacancy Announcement
Job Vacancy No. 11-022

Opening Date: Friday, 03/04/11 Closing Date: Friday, 03/18/11

WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Warehouse Manager or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows: Responsible for performing manual labor in the receiving, shipping, and distribution of materials. Prepares materials for issuing against a pick list; ensures correctness of materials. Prepares, packs and delivers requested materials to respective divisions. Verifies quantities and quality of materials received against shipping documents. Prepares receiving documents on returned, salvaged or scraped materials; stacks materials in designated areas. Maintains warehouse and surrounding areas ensuring orderliness of worksite. Conducts monthly inventory counts and spot checks. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, SAIPAN

SALARY: $11,036.00 - $12,263.00 per annum

POSITIONS: Two.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High School Diploma, or G.E.D. Knowledge of: Office machines; Basic mathematics; Safety procedures. Skill in: Operating office equipment; Operating warehouse equipment such as forklifts and pallet jacks; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Applications may be picked up at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office. Failure to provide required documents listed on the application will be grounds for disqualification.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-CRM-062

SUBMISSION: APRIL 15, 2011 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"SAIPAN LAGOON USE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE FOR THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT IS AVAILABLE AT THE CRM FRONT DESK OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY CONTACTING THE CRM AT (670) 664-8305, OR BY EMAILING ***rachel.zuercher@crm.gov.mp***

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE FAXED TO MS. RITA C. CHONG AT (670) 664-8315 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **APRIL 05, 2011.**

PUBLIC LAW 15-95 LOCAL PREFERENCE ACT, AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118, DOES NOT APPLY TO THIS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT.

/s/ **RITA C. CHONG**
DIRECTOR, CRM

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB11-DOF/P&S-043

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 11, 2011 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SALES OF GOVERNMENT PERSONAL PROPERTIES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

INSPECTION: the government authorized an inspection of the property to determine the true condition of the item(s) to be sold. **Purchaser is cautioned to inspect the item(s) and purchased the item(s) as is, where is.**

/s/ LARRISA C. LARSON
ACTING SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Aldridge has 30 in Portland's victory over Dallas

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—LaMarcus Aldridge scored 30 points and Brandon Roy added 21 off the bench, including a key jumper with less than a minute to go, as the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Dallas Mavericks 104-101 on Tuesday night.

The Blazers led 100-94 with 3:50 left, but Jason Terry's basket narrowed it to 100-99. Roy hit a pair of free throws before a pull-up jumper that made it 104-99 with 47 seconds left.

Dirk Nowitzki hit a pair of free throws, but after a timeout with 8.8 seconds on the clock, he missed a 3-point attempt from the corner and time ran out for the Mavericks.

Nowitzki finished with 28 points and 11 rebounds for Dallas, which shot 59.7 percent for the game.

The Mavericks had a tense moment in the first half when Nowitzki left the court with what appeared to be a shoulder injury. He returned to the bench a short time later, however.

Dallas made its first 10 shots and didn't miss until Brian Cardinal's failed 3-point attempt with 3:25 left in the first quarter. The errant shot earned applause from the Rose Garden crowd. The Mavs shot 73 percent in the first quarter.

Dallas led by as many as eight points early, but Portland narrowed the gap to 24-21 on Aldridge's dunk. Portland briefly took the lead when Wesley Matthews' 3-pointer made it 45-43. But Dallas quickly reclaimed the lead on Terry's 3-pointer and the Mavericks were up 56-53 at the break.

The Mavericks extended the lead to 71-62 on Tyson Chandler's dunk. The Blazers kept up the pressure, and Aldridge tied it at 76 with a turnaround jumper late in the third quarter. Portland took a 78-76 lead on Roy's layup.

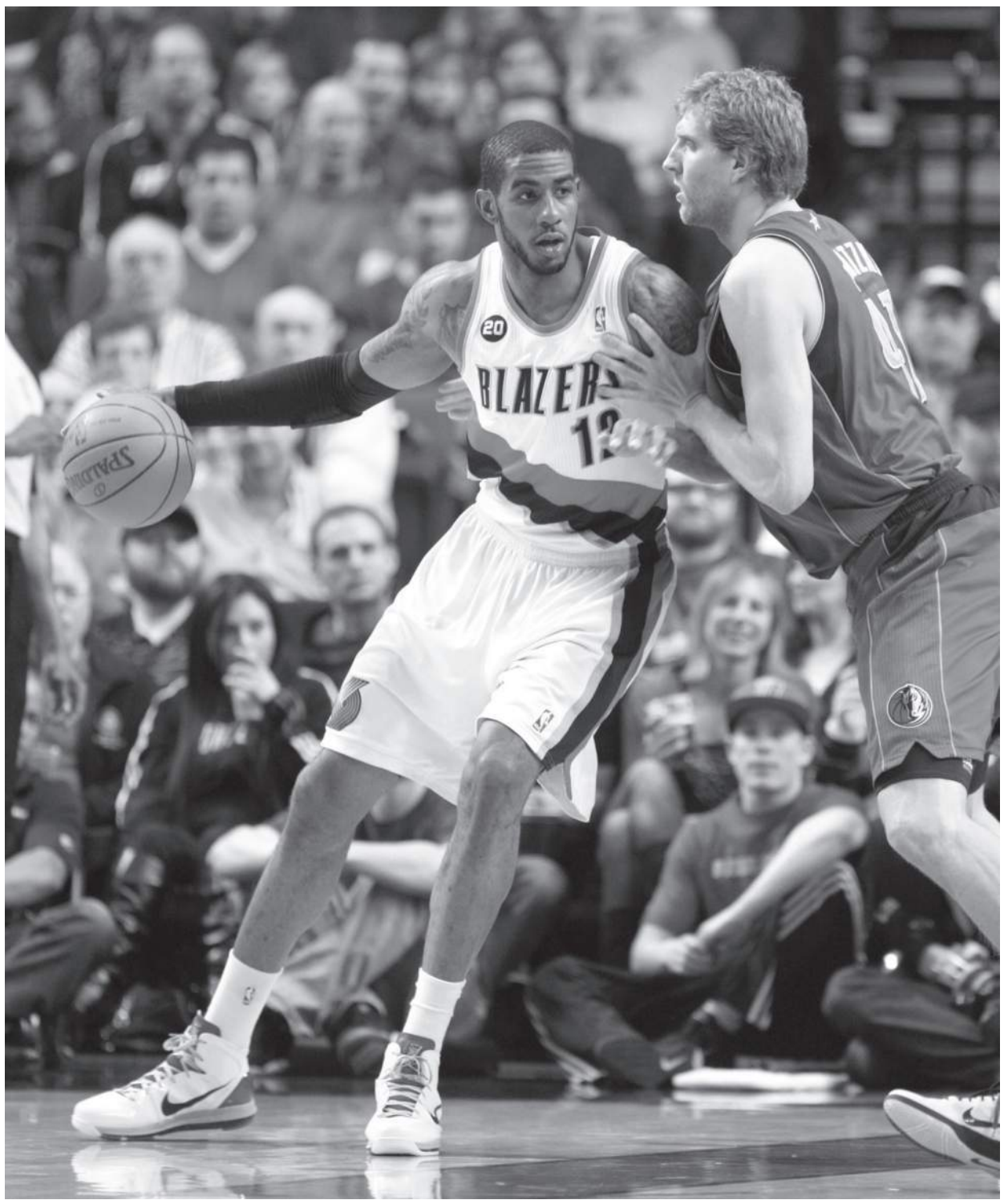
It was the first of 10 straight points for Roy in a 10-2 run that that put Portland up 86-80 early in the fourth quarter.

The Mavericks were without Brendan Haywood, who was sitting with lower back stiffness. Peja Stojakovic missed his fourth straight game with a stiff neck.

The Blazers switched things up by starting Gerald Wallace in place of Marcus Camby. Wallace, an All-Star last season, came to the Blazers in a trade with Charlotte at the deadline last month.

Camby had arthroscopic knee surgery in January and his minutes have been limited since his return. Blazers coach Nate McMillan did not say whether the change was permanent.

Portland was home after two straight losses on the road. The Mavericks were coming off a 96-91 loss at home to the Lakers on Sunday.



AP

Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki, right, defends against Portland Trail Blazers' LaMarcus Aldridge (12) in first quarter of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 15, 2011, in Portland, Ore.

Pacers 119, Knicks 117

At Indianapolis, Danny Granger's jump shot with 0.3 seconds left gave Indiana a victory over New York.

Indiana passed the ball inbounds with 7.8 seconds left. Granger worked the clock, drove right on Shawne Williams, pulled up and connected on a 17-foot fadeaway.

Granger, who missed Sunday's 106-93 win at New York with strep throat, scored 26 points. Tyler Hansbrough scored a career-high 30 points after setting a career high with 29 Sunday. Darren Collison added 24 points and nine assists for Indiana.

Carmelo Anthony scored 29 points and Amare Stoudemire added 21 points and 10 rebounds for the Knicks, who have lost three straight.

Bulls 98, Wizards 79

At Chicago, Derrick Rose scored 23 points to help Chicago earn its seventh consecutive victory and move into sole possession of first place in the Eastern Conference.

Luol Deng added 20 points and Keith Bogans scored 17, his highest total since joining the Bulls. Bogans took all of his 10 shots from behind the 3-point arc, hitting a season-high five.

Washington center JaVale McGee had a rare triple-double with 11 points, 12 rebounds and 12 blocks, the most by an NBA player since Toronto's Keon Clark had 12 on March 23, 2001.

Rookie Jordan Crawford led the Wizards with 27 points.

Hawks 110, Bucks 85

At Atlanta, Joe Johnson scored 36 points—28 in the first half—as Atlanta cruised past Milwaukee in a makeup game.

Johnson donned a black headband to protect the back of his scalp after undergoing a procedure to treat a skin infection. He made six straight 3-pointers on the way to the highest-scoring half by an Atlanta player this season.

With Johnson firing away, the Hawks went on a 20-0 run that started at the end of the first quarter and extended into the second.

Andrew Bogut led Milwaukee with 21 points. The teams were making up a Jan. 11 game that was postponed after an ice storm struck Atlanta.

UNC Asheville opens tourney with 81-77 OT win

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—Matt Dickey and North Carolina-Asheville injected a little customary March drama into the NCAA's new-look tournament. Dickey led a late run that brought overtime, and J.P. Primm hit five free throws and had a decisive steal in the closing seconds Tuesday night, sending UNC Asheville to an 81-77 victory over Arkansas-Little Rock in a dramatic "First Four" opener.

"We don't have any quit in this team," UNC Asheville coach Eddie Biedenbach said.

The Bulldogs (20-13) will play Pittsburgh, the top seed in the Southeast, on Thursday in Washington, D.C.

UNC Asheville pulled it out with a tournament-worthy performance by its best player. The Bulldogs led for only 51 seconds in regulation, before Dickey asserted himself. He scored 14 of the Bulldogs' last 18 points in regulation, including a 3 with 10.5 seconds to go that tied it.

"I hit one in the corner and it was a good time for it to fall," Dickey said.

Primm and Dickey had 22 points apiece.

Alex Garcia-Mendoza matched his career high with 21 points for Arkansas-Little Rock (19-17). The Trojans played overtime without Solomon Bozeman, the Sun Belt's player of the year who fouled out in the final minute of regulation. He finished with 18 points.

Each year, the tournament turns into a big stage looking for a star. Dickey became the first to take the spotlight.

The shooting guard asserted himself with nine minutes left, leading the late surge that culminated in his 3-pointer from the left corner. Matt Mouzy missed a 3 at the buzzer, sending it to overtime.

There were five lead changes in overtime, the last coming on Primm's two free throws that made it 78-77 and put the Bulldogs in position to win yet another overtime tournament game in Dayton.

The Bulldogs also opened the tournament in Dayton in 2003, when they became the first Big South team to win an NCAA tournament game. They went overtime to beat Texas Southern 92-84 in a one-game play-in for the 65-team field.

UNC Asheville received a key to their city last week for making it to the NCAA tournament, something they'd done only one other time in school history.

Imagine what kind of greeting they can expect back home now.

Players had trouble sleeping the night before they got on their charter flights—a first for most of them—and headed to Dayton to become a footnote to NCAA tournament history. They were the opening act in the "First Four"—four games over two days at the University of Dayton Arena, part of an expanded 68-team field.

And they did it with a few tournament-worthy moments: Unexpected 3s, no-look passes and overtime drama.

"We're playing really good now and it feels good to go to the second round," Dickey said.

Both teams had a leading player coming off an MVP tournament. Dickey averaged 19.7 points during the Big South tournament. Bozeman got the same honors in the Sun Belt, hitting a 3-pointer with 1.5 seconds left that brought the championship.

With the Trojans needing another big shot on Tuesday, he could only sit and watch.

Clemson 70, Dayton 52

At Dayton, Ohio, Jerai Grant scored a career-best 22 points and fast-starting Clemson built a double-figure lead and never backed off in beating Alabama-Birmingham in an NCAA tournament "First Four" game at the University of Dayton Arena.

In a matchup of No. 12 seeds, part of the expanded tournament's new look, the Tigers (22-11) went on a 21-2 run in the first half and never let the big lead slip away, as they had in several recent games.

Clemson hurried out after its first NCAA tournament victory in 14 years to catch a flight to a second-round game against fifth-seeded West Virginia (20-11) on Thursday afternoon in Tampa, Fla.

Milton Jennings added 11 points and Tanner Smith and Devin Booker each had 10 for Clemson, picked to finish seventh in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Jamarr Sanders had 19 and Dexter Fields 12 for UAB, regular-season champions of Conference USA.

Ahead 39-27 at the break, Clemson never let the Blazers draw closer than eight points in the second half.

UAB's hopes wilted when, already trailing 61-42, it lost point guard Aaron Johnson.

Johnson, leading the nation in assists at 7.7 per game, was injured while trying to prevent an easy layup by Grant. After lying on the floor for several minutes, he left the court on crutches with a right leg injury. He received a round of applause from the crowd of 10,025.

Players try to pick up legal system on the fly

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Vikings linebacker Ben Leber is fluent in zone dog blitzes and cover 2 dropbacks.

When it comes to the legalese, however, that's another story. As the NFL labor fight moves from the mediation room to the court room, players are trying to learn the ins and outs of filing a lawsuit and the legal labyrinth that follows.

"For a player it can be frustrating at times, because now we're in the hands of the legal system," Leber said. "None of us are lawyers and we don't always understand the legalities of the dispute, so we just have to learn on the fly."

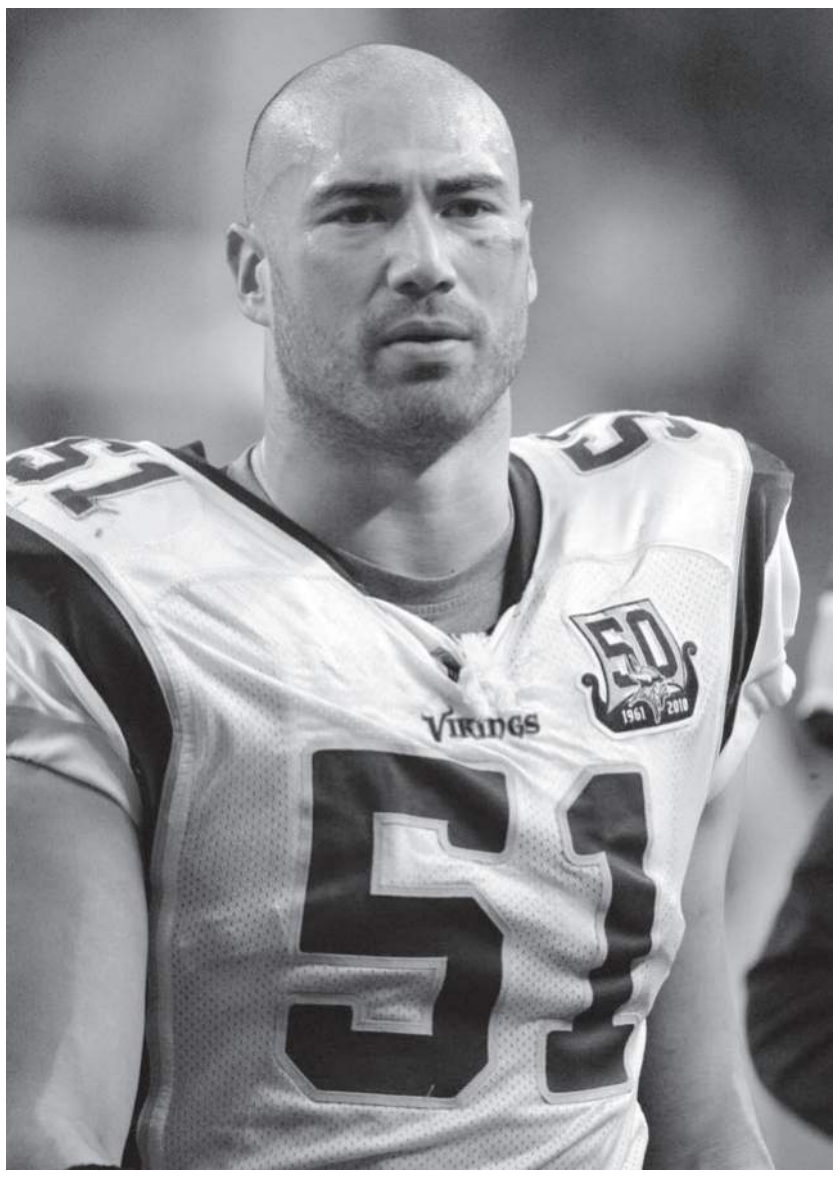
Leber is one of the plaintiffs in a suit the players filed against the league last Friday and was a Vikings assistant player representative for the union before it decertified. He also sat in on some of the negotiating sessions in Washington a few weeks ago, so he is well versed in the complexities of the collective bargaining agreement.

But now that the dispute is headed to the courts, he finds himself having to do more to stay on top of the developments. Leber isn't reading "Lawsuits for Dummies" or watching "A Few Good Men" to get acquainted with the nuances, but he is consulting agents and lawyers and doing research on the Internet.

"As one of the player reps for the team I'm keeping in contact with the guys and with the union. Trying to amass as much knowledge as I can," Leber said. "Sometimes, honestly, I've had to get on the Internet and (go) to legal websites just to learn what some of these legal terms mean."

Acquiring that knowledge is hard enough for a law student, let alone for a pro football player who has spent his adult life studying game film, not appellate court rulings.

In the most basic layman's terms, 10 players including Leber, Tom Brady and Peyton Manning have sued the league for anticompetitive practices in an attempt to force the NFL to end its labor lockout that began early Saturday.



AP

In photo taken Jan. 2, 2011, Minnesota Vikings' Ben Leber walks off the field following their NFL football game against the Detroit Lions in Detroit.

"Coming into this whole situation with the CBA and the antitrust stuff, it's kind of complicated to us," fourth-year Vikings safety Tyrell Johnson said. "It's like learning a new language. It's very foreign to me and a lot of younger players. The older players probably have a better idea about it. I remember my first couple years, I didn't even know what the CBA was. A lot of it is way over my head."

And it's not just the young guys who are having a difficult time getting the hang of it. Ravens center Matt Birk, who studied finance at Harvard, has tried to stay as educated as possible to help advise his teammates of the developments. But he said there comes a certain point where he has to sit back and let the attorneys do their jobs while he concentrates on readying for what he hopes will be his 14th NFL season.

"I'm not a lawyer and I don't have any desire to be a lawyer," Birk said Tuesday. "I don't get too wrapped up in it. My focus is still working out and going through my routine. My focus is still football. ... Back when we were a union, they would explain to us what was happening and the possible scenarios. We're kind of learning as we go."

Many players find themselves having to lean on former player reps, agents, advisers and attorneys.

"Let's face it, this is a huge and complex issue, so really it's routine with any conversations we are having here with our players, my partner Ben Dogra and I, we are discussing the collective bargaining process," prominent agent Tom Condon said. "I am reinforcing what they are hearing from the players association, and if they need some clarity, we are happy to provide anything we can."

If the players have any advantage in picking things up quickly, it may be that they're used to cram sessions because they face a new opponent every week. Players are often required to learn complex schemes—say, the West Coast offense or the Blitzburgh defense—in just a few days.

"Sometimes football can probably be as complex as the law," Birk said. "But at the end of the day, we're just people like everybody else. We're learning about terms like decertification and injunction, just like fans are who are watching this closely."

Former All-Pro defensive tackle Kevin Williams of the Vikings said he think the players' leaders have done well to keep them informed on the major issues and developments.

"I think for the most part, everybody gets the big picture," Williams said. "The long version is it's complicated and you can't really understand everything that goes into it."

But for players like Ryan Longwell, whose contract with Minnesota expired after last season, keeping up with every little detail has become imperative. He's more than willing to do some extra work.

"What I found out is one word can change the whole meaning of everything," Longwell said. "I think it's important, no matter how long it takes, to understand the facts and not what the PR machine is trying to get you to believe."

Goodell: Get us back to mediation

NEW YORK (AP)—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell doesn't expect labor talks to resume until after a U.S. District Court judge rules on the players' injunction to stop the lockout.

Appearing on NFL Network, Goodell said Tuesday night that there has been virtually no dialogue with the NFL Players Association since mediated negotiations collapsed last Friday.

"I think we're in a period where litigation and the litigation strategy ... is ongoing. That will have to play out for the next couple weeks," he said.

"For us to go back to mediation, you call me and we'll be there," Goodell said. "Any contact with the trade association or any discussion, for lack of better phrase, about trying to put this genie back in the bottle? There's, unfortunately, been very limited contact."

Goodell echoed what league managers and owners said last weekend: owners provided more financial information to the players than ever before, including some data not made available to the 32 clubs. Included were audited financial details spanning five years that would show the NFLPA profits on a league-wide and club-wide basis.

"That was information that they had asked for several times before," he said. "So it was information that we thought was responsive to what they were asking for, but also something that if they really did feel this was going to help move the ball they would have accepted, taken that information, and we would have been able to reach an agreement."

The players rejected the data, saying it was not what they requested. NFLPA head DeMaurice Smith called the information "utterly meaningless."

Chamberlain has MRI exam on strained left oblique

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Yankees reliever Joba Chamberlain has undergone an MRI exam for a strained muscle near the rib cage.

New York manager Joe Girardi on Tuesday said doctors were examining the results of Monday's test on the left side of his upper body. He said the right-hander will not pitch for at least the next few days.

"They want to go slow," Girardi said. "Anything dealing with an oblique, there's concern."

Chamberlain had treatment on the Yankees' off day on Tuesday.

Pitcher Sergio Mitre is expected to throw off a bullpen mound on Wednesday. He was scratched from his scheduled start Monday night against Boston because of a sore left upper body muscle.

Bartolo Colon, competing with Freddy Garcia, Ivan Nova and Mitre for one of two open spots in the rotation behind CC Sabathia, Phil Hughes and A.J. Burnett, allowed four hits and struck out seven in six scoreless innings of a simulated game.

"As the time goes by, I feel better and better," Colon said through a translator. "Everything is good. I need to continue to work, and made the decision tough."

Colon threw 56 of 79 pitches for strikes.

"He's throwing a ton of quality pitches," Girardi said.

The final decision on the rotation openings may not take place until near the end of spring training.

"They're making it difficult," Girardi said. "It's probably going to come down to the last two weeks."

Sabathia also took part in the simulated game, giving up two hits, two walks and striking four over 6 1-3 shutout innings against a group of Yankees' minor leaguers. The expected opening day starter threw 82 pitches.

"My pitches are coming along," Sabathia said. "My fastball command has been pretty good. I'm feeling pretty good."

Notes: RHP Mark Prior (illness) is feeling better and played catch in the outfield. ... C Kyle Higashioka was sent to th minor league camp.

NFL BRIEFS

Diamondbacks pick Kennedy to start on opening day

SCOTTSDALE Ariz. (AP)—Ian Kennedy has been picked to start on opening day for the Arizona Diamondbacks. Arizona manager Kirk Gibson said Tuesday that Kennedy will pitch April 1 at Colorado. The right-hander went 9-10 with a 3.80 ERA last season, his first with the Diamondbacks after coming over in a trade from the New York Yankees. He had 168 strikeouts and 70 walks in 32 starts. The 26-year-old Kennedy is 10-14 with a 4.33 ERA in 44 career starts. He is 0-0 with a 7.88 ERA in three outings this spring. Gibson also said Daniel Hudson, who is 1-1 with a 3.48 ERA in three appearances this spring, will be the Diamondbacks' No. 2 starter.

A's closer Andrew Bailey has strained forearm

PHOENIX (AP)—Tests revealed Tuesday that Oakland closer Andrew Bailey has a strained forearm, news that came as a relief to the Athletics after they feared he had a serious elbow injury. There is no timetable for his return, but Bailey will resume throwing once the discomfort subsides. "It's good news for us, definitely. We'll go from there," manager Bob Geren said in Surprise, where an Athletics split squad played the Kansas City Royals. The A's were concerned when Bailey left Monday's game against Cleveland in the seventh inning, grabbing his right elbow after throwing a pitch to Ezequiel Carrera. Bailey flew to Birmingham, Ala., and was examined by Dr. James Andrews, who performed surgery on Bailey to clean out the elbow area Sept. 24.

Cardinals pitcher Ian Snell retires at age 29

JUPITER, Fla. (AP)—Ian Snell decided to retire at age 29 after the St. Louis Cardinals optioned him to the minors. The right-hander signed a minor league deal in January after going 0-5 with 6.41 ERA in 12 games, eight of them starts, for the Seattle Mariners last season. Cardinals general manager John Mozeliak said Snell decided to quit before Tuesday's spring game against the Atlanta Braves. The Cardinals had anticipated Snell starting the season at Triple-A Memphis. The move leaves them with 42 healthy players in camp. "The initial hope was he was going to be someone who could give us protection at Memphis," Mozeliak said. "Someone is going to have to step up. It's not a huge hit to us at this point." Snell pitched in one game, working two innings and allowing two runs on March 3. Since then he appeared in two "B" games, the last on Monday when he gave up two runs in an inning against Atlanta.

Familia wins battle of bottom feeders

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Budweiser CHAMOLINIAN SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Familia clipped Braddahs, 23-22, in the battle of cellar dwellers in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2nd Annual Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League last week at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Familia finally broke into the win column after six tries, while Braddahs are still winless in five games.

Other winners last week include co-leader Natibu, which improved its undefeated streak to six after rallying over Your Balls, 14-12, and Gorillaz, which bested G-Ballers, 12-10. Gorillaz and G-Ballers now have identical 2-3 records, while Your Balls holds an even card of 2-2. Still perfect in five games, Phat Boyz kept pace with the league-leading Natibu.

In Friday's games, Berdax improved to a 2-2 slate after downing Laolao Bay, 17-13, while Salty Boys (4-2) won the other men's game via forfeiture over V-Power (4-2). In the women's division, Sakudi (5-0) also prevailed via forfeit over NMC Proa (2-3).

Familia 23, Braddahs 22

With the game tied at 18's in the top of the tenth, Braddahs managed four runs off a two-run shot by Nunu Kapileo, a RBI single by Shane Iguel, and a RBI triple by Ben Cabrera for a 22-18 lead.

However, Familia mustered five runs in the bottom frame off a three-run homer by Jonathan Sonoda, followed by a pair of hits and an error to finally lay Braddahs to rest.

Familia built an early 4-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning off a two-RBI double by Greg Camacho, a fielder's choice, and a RBI knock by John Paul Flores.

Braddahs got three runs back at the start of the second off RBI rips by Fonze Tarope, Imoa Iguel, and Ben Cabrera. However, Familia went ahead 7-3 in the bottom frame off a solo shot by Perry Tudela, a fielder's choice, and a RBI knock by Flores.

Then Familia went ahead 10-3 in the bottom of the third off errors and a RBI hit by Tudela.

Braddahs pulled within a run in the top of the fourth, 9-10. Nunu Kapileo led off with a homer and Braddas went on to load the bases and managed five more runs off a walk, a two-RBI single by Cabrera, and an error.

It was a neck-and-neck game since then before Braddahs finally blinked in the 10th frame.

Natibu 14, Your Balls 12

Both teams scored four runs in the first inning. Your Balls did it with a two-run shot by Mike Taitano, a RBI single by Oliver Secharmidal, and a sacrifice fly by Joe Lizama, while Natibu answered with a two-run homer by Jerome Delos Santos and a two-RBI smash by Bruce Norita.

Three innings later, Your Balls went ahead, 11-8, after a two-run bomb by Giovanne Ayuyu, but Natibu tied it at 11 in the bottom frame off a two-RBI single by Nokki Saralu and a sacrifice fly by J.R. Suel.

Neither team scored in the fifth. Natibu then managed a run in the bottom of the sixth off a RBI double by Victor Salas, but Your Balls answered with a run off a RBI single by Secharmidal in the top of the seventh.

It slipped through Your Balls fingers in the end, as Natibu's third batter Delos Santos jacked a two-run shot over the fence for the walk off victory.

Gorillaz 12, G-Ballers 10

G-Ballers broke the ice with a run in the top of the first inning off a sacrifice fly, but Gorillaz came back and took a 9-1 lead in the bottom of the second inning. G-Ballers pulled within a run, 8-9, in the top of the third off a couple runs allowed by errors, a RBI single by Jun Salalila, a two-run homer by John Wayne Kintaro, a solo blast by Roy Ada and a RBI rip by Asap Ogumoro. Gorillaz upped the lead, 10-8, in the bottom frame off a sacrifice fly by Manny Ada.

After two scoreless innings, Gorillaz added a pair of runs off a two-run shot by Manny Ada in the sixth and held G-Ballers to just two runs in the last inning.

Berdax 17, Laolao Bay 13

Berdax took an early 8-0 lead in the top of the second inning. The first four runs came in off errors and a RBI single by Shine Tenorio. Then after an error, Jesse Tenorio belted a two-run homer and a hit later, Bill Camacho hit a two-run double.

Laolao Bay went 1-2-3 in the bottom frame and Berdax added four more runs to its lead off a two-run shot by Shine Tenorio, an error and a RBI base rip by Ben Taisacan. Laolao got two runs back in the bottom frame off an error and a RBI double by Nicko Martin and held Berdax to a 1-2-3 inning to start the fourth.

Then Laolao pulled within two runs, 10-12, in the bottom of the fourth off an error, a RBI single by Tony Satur, a RBI double by Jimmy Brel, a pair of RBI base knocks by Martin and Charlie Wabol, and a sacrifice fly by Paul Santos.

After a scoreless fifth inning, Berdax went ahead, 13-10, in the top of the sixth off an error.

Laolao answered with two runs in the bottom frame off an error and a RBI single by Nick Cruz to make it a one run game, 13-12, but Berdax tacked on four more runs in the top of the seventh inning to put the pressure back on Laolao. Berdax went on to hold Laolao to just one run in its final stand.

MOBIL

From Page 28

Every Esdrelon shot was challenged with two to three Mobil players hounding him.

In its Game 2 win, 71-64, Esdrelon was totally out of the picture, making only three free throws. He did not start in the fourth quarter and then sat out in the last 3:02 of the final canto due to cramps, helplessly watching his team collapsed again after a good start.

"Elmer is the heart and soul of IP&E. If you take him out of the game, chances are you will win the match," Deocares said.

On defense, Mobil's big men Larry Sharry, Jorge De Guzman, and Gil Gapor pushed IP&E Konflikt's frontliners out of their comfort zones and although Kae Bernardo scored in double figures in both games, he had to bleed for points. Mobil's frontliners collared 29 defensive boards against only eight from IP&E in Game 2. On the offensive end, each team nailed 12 boards.

In the series, IP&E Konflikt kept up the tempo of the match in the first period and managed to lead by double digits at the end of the opening canto.

"I was frustrated with my players' tendency to match IP&E's fastbreak game. I told them if we will play IP&E's pace, we will lose. In the second quarter, we started to slow down and that's the time we gain momentum," Deocares said.

Key additions

In the series, people were surprised to see Banjo Basila quarterbacked for Mobil, instead of Jun Estolas, but the ploy worked well for the team. "With Basila at the point, Jun concentrated on offense and didn't get tired carrying the ball for the team," Deocares said.

Basila also contributed on offense, making all his nine points in the second quarter of Game 1 where Mobil recovered from a 12-24 deficit and took a big 47-30 halftime lead.

Then there was Bon Tamayo, who had 12 and 19 points in Games 1 and 2, respectively.

"I needed a pure shooter who can help Jun outside and Bon was the right choice. He and Basila are great additions to the team. They blended well with our original players. They adjusted their games to fit in to the team," said Deocares, who also credited Ron Gamboa for stepping up off the bench in Game 1.

Other factors

The Mobil coach mentioned three other factors that contributed to their championship win.

First, Deocares' wards showed poise, which IP&E lacked in the series.

"Even though we were down by a big margin, we kept coming back. Then in the homestretch, we hit clutch baskets and the boys did not panic," Deocares said.

Second, Deocares was too familiar of most IP&E players. He said majority of IP&E players played for his team at one time so he knows their tendencies.

"I am familiar with most of them, so it was not that hard to read what they will be doing on the court. For Elmer, you have to stop him early or he will eat you alive. The rest of IP&E's big guys, don't give them space and backed them out for the rebounds," the Mobil coach added.

Third, Mobil players listened.

"I told them what were needed in the game. They listened, no questions asked. If they committed mistakes, I don't blame them, I blamed myself, as I am the one who designed the plays," Deocares said.

"At the end of the day, we have to follow one direction because we are one, we are a team. I thanked all my players for thrusting me. It's hard to bring 12 grown-up men together and tell them what to do, but my players allowed me to do so," he added.

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bike race, Sublemente clocked in at 1:53:39, and then he submitted 1:09:00 in the trail run to top the 35 to 39 age group. He won over six other participants in his division: Charles Frontier of Canada (3:35:13), Japan's Masato Samata (3:45:03), Nobuhiro Koizumi (3:54:00), Yoshinori Makino (4:34:25), and Fumihisa Asano (4:58:47), and Saipan's Brad Ruszala (5:24:44).

In the 25 to 29 age group, Saipan's Bryan Morris won with a time of 3:35:34, beating Guam's John Kelly (4:24:09), while Japan's Takahiro Mizomoto was the lone competitor in the 30 to 34 age group and logged 4:44:46. Three other age groups had only one entry each with Kasukiko Kubo joining the 40 to 44 division (4:17:00), Alan Moore competing in the 60 to 64 (5:34:36) and GL Brown participating in the 65 to 69 age group (6:15:45).

In the 45 to 49 division, Japan's Tetsuya Sugimori finished first at 3:59:17, followed by Guam's Rick Leone (4:22:39), Japan's Yasuhiro Hirayama (4:30:34), and Atsushi Yukawa (4:44:24), Australia's Allan Collinson (5:09:14), and Japan's Hiroshi Nonaka (5:53:07).

In the women's division, Saipan's Kimiko Hasegawa ruled the 40 to 44 age group after completing the longer race of the day in 4:41:21. She prevailed over Guam's Dana Suess (5:11:58), and Japan's Yoshimi Yasue (5:24:29) and Kokono Kawamoto (5:56:14).

In the 35 to 39 age group, Japan's Azuna Samata timed in at 5:38:24 to down compatriot Mai Chiku (5:41:26), while Guam's Mark Walters (5:18:52) and Oregon's Lisa Brummond (5:32:41) won the 45 to 49 and 50 to 54 age group, respectively.

TSUNAMI

From Page 28

uled to take place on March 19 and 20 in Koto City, but organizers scrapped the annual event after an earthquake and tsunami hit Japan last week.

Tsunami Saipan was supposed to send four swimmers to the Tokyo Sprint. The list includes returnees Kensuke Kimura and Kaito Yanai and newcomers Lukas Kang and Ryuto Yanai.

"Our Japan trip is cancelled as the meet is also cancelled," Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said. "We will just have a meet here on April 15 and 16."

Had the two-day tournament in the tsunami-torn Japan pushed through, Hiro Kimura and his swimmers should have left Saipan today and arrive in Tokyo tomorrow for a practice swim before plunging into the 25-meter pool of Tatsumi.

Ryuto Yanai was scheduled to compete in the 7-year-old division, while older brother Kaito was to join the 11-year-old age group. Kang was entered in the 8-year-old division, while Kensuke Kimura was picked for the 14-year-old division competition.

With the Japan competition now shelved, the older Yanai missed an opportunity to win another medal in his return trip to Tokyo.

Last Year, Kaito Yanai claimed the gold medal in the 100m individual medley. He clocked in at 1:15.56 in the 100m IM finals, prevailing over seven other finalists. Yanai's time in the finals was better than his qualifying time of 1:18.12. In the qualifying race, Yanai recorded the fifth best time among 72 swimmers.

Meanwhile, the cancellation of their Japan trip will allow Kensuke Kimura to join the relay race in this Saturday's Tagaman Triathlon.

LITTLE LEAGUE

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In return, DCCA DYS handed out $800 to SLLB for purchase of balls and authorized a DYS community outreach provision supervisor to work at the baseball fields at the Oleai Sports Complex every other Friday and assist the group during games. The fund came from Social Service Block Grand through the Office of the Community Services, Administration for Children and Families.

DYS will also schedule public awareness activities or provide information booths during games, recruit Little League players and their parents for DYS-organized events, and conduct prevention survey with parents on the impact of Little League program to the children.

SLLB acting president Claudio L. Leon Guerrero and advisor Robert Guerrero signed the MOA yesterday at the office of DCCA secretary Melvin Faisao. Also present to sign the MOA were acting DYS director Jaclyn T. Mendiola and DYS Community Outreach Program supervisor William P. Limes.

Mendiola and Leon Guerrero both expressed the positive effect of the new partnership.

"Youth sports, such as baseball, promote healthy lifestyles. The kids also learn a lot from all the volunteer coaches and managers. They learn about hard work, team work, and healthy competition," Mendiola said.

"We hope this partnership will open the doors for funding for the district and regional tournaments this summer," said Leon Guerrero, adding that the league has already submitted proposed budgets for both tournaments.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	47	18	.723	–
New York	34	32	.515	13 1/2
Philadelphia	34	33	.507	14
New Jersey	22	43	.338	25
Toronto	18	48	.273	29 1/2

Southeast Division

x-Miami	46	21	.687	–
Orlando	42	26	.618	4 1/2
Atlanta	39	28	.582	7
Charlotte	28	38	.424	17 1/2
Washington	16	50	.242	29 1/2

Central Division

y-Chicago	48	18	.727	–
Indiana	29	38	.433	19 1/2
Milwaukee	26	40	.394	22
Detroit	23	44	.343	25 1/2
Cleveland	12	53	.185	35 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	54	13	.806	–
Dallas	47	20	.701	7
New Orleans	39	30	.565	16
Memphis	37	31	.544	17 1/2
Houston	34	34	.500	20 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	43	23	.652	–
Denver	40	27	.597	3 1/2
Portland	38	29	.567	5 1/2
Utah	35	33	.515	9
Minnesota	17	51	.250	27

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	48	20	.706	–
Phoenix	33	32	.508	13 1/2
Golden State	30	37	.448	17 1/2
L.A. Clippers	26	42	.382	22
Sacramento	16	49	.246	30 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Indiana 119, New York 117
Atlanta 110, Milwaukee 85
Chicago 98, Washington 79
Portland 104, Dallas 101

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2011 XTERRA Saipan Swim Leg

PHOTOS by
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Swimmers walks toward the shore for the second lap of the swim leg.

U.S. pro and new XTERRA Saipan champion Shonny Vanlandingham sprints to the finish line of the swim race.

Brazilian pro Denilson Freitas leads Bryan Morris.

Joshua Berger and Rick Leone go for the final lap of the two-lap race.

Far left, Butch Sublemente, left, and an off-island triathlete adjust their goggles in preparation for the two-kilometer swim in the 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championship last Saturday.

Jim Arenovski leads other finishers in the swim course for XTERRA Sport.

Renata Bucher (102) and Takahiro Ogasawara wait for the start of the swim race.

U.S. pro Suzy Snyder heads to the swim-bike transition area.

Mieko Carey heads to the swim-bike transition area after finishing the swim race first.

Sam Gardner returns to the waters off Micro Beach for the second lap of the race.

Aldridge has 30 in Portland's victory over Dallas

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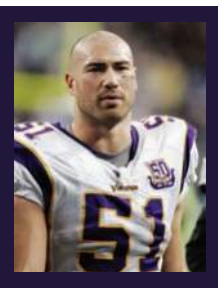
Saipan Tribune
Sports

Players try to pick up legal system on the fly



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Mobil executes near-perfect game plan

Mobil's Larry Sharry, left, blocks IP&E Konflikt's Elmer Esdrelon, while teammate Jun Estolas waits for help defense during Game 2 of their title series in the UBA/Docomo caging on Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mobil drove its way to the championship in the 2nd Docomo Pacific/ UBA Men's League after following an almost-flawless game plan.

"Before we played in the finals series, we had a meeting and studied IP&E Konflikt's game. The game plan was to neutralize Elmer Esdrelon, play defense first before concentrating on offense, and slow things down ," Deocares said.

In its Game 1 win, 84-69, Mobil held Esdrelon to nine points off only three field goals and two free throws. The IP&E Konflikt team captain had two points each in the first and second quarter, was limited to two charities in the third, and scored his lone field goal in the fourth quarter—a triple—when the game was already in the bag for Mobil.

See MOBIL on Page 26

29 non-pros complete XTERRA Saipan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Twenty-nine non-pro triathletes prided themselves on finishing the 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championship, enduring the challenging course in last Saturday's race.

Saipan's Butch Sublemente was on the list, completing the 1.5-kilometer swim, 30-k mountain bike race, and 12-k run in three hours, 32 minutes, and 21 seconds—the fastest time among the non-pro finishers and eighth best overall. Sublemente was the top Saipan male finisher in the weekend race.

The 36-year-old triathlete timed in at 29:42 in the swim leg that took place in the rough waters off Micro Beach less than 12 hours after a tsunami warning was issued on Saipan. In the slippery

See 29 on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Butch Sublemente turns to Lamar trail during the bike leg of the 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championship last Saturday.

Little League, DYS forge partnership

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
From right, acting Department of Community and Cultural Affairs–Division of Youth Services director Jaclyn T. Mendiola, DYS Community Outreach Program supervisor William P. Limes, DCCA secretary Melvin Faisao, acting Saipan Little League Baseball president Claudia L. Leon Guerrero, and SLLB advisor Robert Guerrero pose for a group photo after signing a memorandum of agreement yesterday at the DCCA office in Capital Hill.

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Division of Youth Services and Saipan Little League Baseball signed a memorandum of agreement for the implementation of DCCA DYS' youth empowerment program.

Under the MOA, the SLLB will serve as an outlet for DCCA DYS' program, while the latter will give financial and technical assistance to the former.

The sports group is encouraged to find low-income and at-risk youth to participate in the Little League program and once recruited, SLLB will inform families on DYS monthly events, projects, and workshops. SLLB is also expected to provide sites for DYS-organized Little League games; give the agency numerical data on youths participating in the program; and assist DYS community outreach supervisor in having a parent survey and coordinating other events involving the youth.

See LITTLE LEAGUE on Page 26

Tsunami swimmers cancel Japan trip

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2011 Tokyo Junior Sprint Championships at the Tatsumi International Swimming Stadium has been canceled, forcing Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan delegates to stay on island and just prepare for a local meet next month.

The Tokyo Sprint was sched-

See TSUNAMI on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kaito Yanai, seen here in a file photo, and three other Tsunami Saipan swimmers cancelled their trip to the tsunami-torn Japan.